# Daily Report

# Latin America

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*FBIS-LAT-92-054* *19 March 1992*

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### Argentina

"Argentine Government sources" have reported that a member of the Israeli delegation to the Madrid peace conference was the target of the Israeli Embassy bombing, Madrid EFE reports. NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS reports that the Islamic Jihad has issued a communique claiming responsibility for the attack "to avenge the death of Shaykh al-Musawi, the leader of the pro-Iranian Lebanese Hizballah." According to the press agency's report, the communique "has not been certified as authentic" but is identical to previous Islamic Jihad releases.

### Venezuela

Hamburg DPA reports that President Carlos Andres Perez has "threatened to resign immediately should the Congress reduce his presidential term and has warned that his departure would bring a military dictatorship to Venezuela." Perez reportedly issued his "vigorous warning" on 16 March when social democratic leaders threatened to support reforms requested by the opposition that would shorten his term if he failed to "immediately reform his neo-liberal economic adjustment plan."

AFP reports that police "attacked" groups attempting to start an antigovernment march in eastern Caracas on 19 March to "demand the resignation of Carlos Andres Perez and the release of the young military officers who tried to oust Perez on 4 February." According to the report, the march was an attempt to defy the government's ban on demonstrations.

### El Salvador

EL DIARIO DE HOY reports on the testimony of two former guerrillas accused of killing two U.S. military advisers. Although the accused admit responsibility for the murders, they argue that they were "mercy killings," an effort to "put them out of their misery." It has not yet been decided whether the two men will be tried.

### Haiti

Port-au-Prince radio announces Assembly President Dejean Belizaire's suspension of the 18 March National Assembly session after 18 parliamentarians walked out, nullifying the quorum. Upon leaving the Parliament building, several senators, deputies, and journalists were reportedly attacked in the streets.

### Bolivia

Anonymous "military sources" report "growing unrest" due to budgetary constraints that have imposed unexpected hardship on the military, Madrid EFE reports. The news agency reports a "proliferation" of communiques signed by anonymous military groups in the past few days denouncing government and Armed Forces "corruption," and according to the news agency's sources, "there are groups of discontented people within the Armed Forces who are organized and ready to act at any moment." Defense Minister Admiral Alberto Saenz Klinsky has ordered an investigation.

## Cuba

### National CDR Coordinator Makes Assessment Tour

*FL1803221892 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2042 GMT 18 Mar 92*

[Text] Division General Sixto Batista Santana, national coordinator of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution [CDR], positively assessed the work done by unit leaders and members of the organization in several municipalities of Santiago de Cuba Province. Contramaestre, San Luis, Mella, Guama, Palma Soriano, Songo-La Maya, and Segundo Frente were the areas toured by the national CDR leaders, where they analyzed compliance with donations, collection of raw materials, and planting in courtyards and gardens.

During his conversations with the people, Sixto Batista urged CDR members in Santiago de Cuba to be more supportive of tunnel construction, fortification of defense areas, and to fight every sign of crime. The national CDR coordinator observed the involvement of the delegates, defense zone leaders, presidents of people's councils, and CDR members in the formation of the rapid response detachments.

### People's Savings Bank Releases Statistics

*FL1803201592 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Mar 92*

[Text] According to information released by the People's Savings Bank, 55 percent of the Cuban people have saving accounts totaling 3.246 billion pesos. The bank's statistics show that 78 percent of the savings accounts totalled 200 pesos; 17 percent ranged between 200 and 5,000 pesos; and the remaining 5 percent have higher amounts.

Iliana Aguilar, vice president of the People's Savings Bank, assured the press that in the country there are no millionaire accounts since the largest amount listed is 250,000 pesos, although, as she pointed out, a family could have several bank accounts. The biggest deposits, according to the bank, are made by the farming sector, private as well as cooperative, but the largest number of accounts is in the hands of workers, professionals, and homemakers.

Currently, the People's Savings Bank is expanding its services in order to improve deposit rates and contribute to the planning of family budgets. Bank experts are working to perfect operations with customers to simplify bank transactions. Approximately 14 bank branches are already using faster procedures as part of this goal. Sixteen new branches have been inaugurated.

### Magnetizers Aid Fuel Savings, Equipment Upkeep

*FL1803223692 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2052 GMT 18 Mar 92*

[Text] Fifteen steelworking industry enterprises involved in manufacturing magnetizers have produced a total of more than 1,000 magnetizers between the end of 1991 and the end of February. Magnetics is an advanced technology fairly well known throughout the world and which has begun to demonstrate its advantages in our country with its application to water treatment and fuel conservation.

This year the steelworking industry expects to manufacture more than 7,300 magnetizers, which will be used in agricultural irrigation systems, seed-producing factories, and electricity generating plants, among other sectors.

The magnetizers used to treat water eliminate the buildup of salts on the walls of pipes, which prevents deterioration and breakdown of equipment and indirectly conserves energy.

### Food Production in Cienfuegos Increases 2 Percent

*FL1803222192 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 18 Mar 92*

[Text] The production of the Provincial Food Enterprise of Cienfuegos increased by 2 percent last year despite the limitations of the special period. Products derived from [word indistinct] decreased, as did spices, canned vegetables, and pasta. Nevertheless, despite resource problems, new products such as macaroni and meat, hot dogs, sauces, canned beans, sausage spread, pressed meat, and soup have been introduced for distribution to the populace. The most outstanding municipalities overall during this period were Aguada, Lajas, and Cumanayagua. In these municipalities the application of production methods was more consistent and forceful, making it possible to provide the highest amounts per capita to consumers.

Moreover, I must say that the Drinks and Liquor Enterprise of Cienfuegos is creating the appropriate conditions for making bottled beer, which is distributed in the province. It is bottled in containers of the [word indistinct] type. Details are being finalized on the technological and laboratory side before beginning marketing aspects such as labeling and pricing, among other things. Barbara Obregon [not further identified] was telling me that even in its testing stage, the beer is being offered to consumers for their opinion in all the provinces of the country. Here in Cienfiegos Province, the people will also be able to drink the bottled beer.

### Citrus Processing Complex Opens in Mantanzas

*FL1903030092 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cubavision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Mar 92*

[Text] New production lines and equipment for the extraction of juice are being installed at the Bay of Pigs Heroes Citrus Processing Complex in Matanzas Province with the objective of doubling production capacity. Journalist Ana Valdez, who is on-site, has details.

[Valdez] The plant, the second of its kind to be installed in Latin America, is totally automated and cost more than 17 million pesos, including all parts of the project. There is only one other plant similar to this one, in Brazil

[words indistinct] as regards industrial processing of citrus fruits in the world at present.

The work is being carried out through an agreement with the Brazilian firm for food trade and industry, (Gumeco), which has been working with Cuba since 1991; they have already finished other installations on the Isle of Youth.

Their consultants say the Cuban technicians' and laborers' work in setting up the plant is top quality, and they hope to get the plant up and running in the third quarter of this year.

The Bay of Pigs Heroes Citrus Processing Complex will increase citrus production by 30 percent in 1992. This means that over 30 million pesos' worth of citrus will be produced. There is a great demand on the international market for natural, as well as concentrated, juices; but from 13 to 19 tons of fruit are needed to make one ton of concentrated juice, whereas only two tons of fruit are needed to produce a ton of natural juice.

The citrus fruit industry in Matanzas brought in more than 21,131,000 pesos in 1991, and made nectars for compotes for use in childcare centers and hospitals. In addition, the industry exported products worth more than 12.4 million pesos in hard currency.

## Galician Mayors Delegation To Arrive 18 Mar

*FL1803203492 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Mar 92*

[Text] Tonight, a delegation of mayors from Galicia will arrive in Havana. The visit coincides with a donation from these mayors' offices of 11 tons of medicines and school supplies currently en route by sea to Cuba. In reference to the arrival of this group of Galician mayors, reporter Barbara Betancourt obtained these comments from Pedro Chavez, president of Havana's Provincial Assembly of the People's Government.

[Begin Chavez recording] They are going to stay here until 26 March when they will return to Spain, of course, to Galicia. There are plans for them to visit various clinics and hospital facilities. They will meet a family doctor, visit the senior citizens home in Santovenia, and tour Habana Vieja, which 10 years ago was declared a Cultural Heritage of Mankind by UNESCO.

They will also receive a letter of recognition for their cooperation and for their visit, which is taking place at a very special time in our country. We very highly value their visit. The visiting mayors will be able to see how we confront the special period in our country, how we overcome the difficulties. They will be able to see the willingness of the people, the spirit of the people. They will witness their motivation, their needs, and their willingness to fight, to do battle, and to confront all the difficulties with commitment and resolution while maintaining a great optimism and a strong belief in the fairness of Cuba's position in defense of our sovereignty and our independence. [end recording]

## * Editorial Criticizes Multiparty Politics

*92CA0101A Havana TRABAJADORES in Spanish 10 Feb 92 p 2*

[Editorial by Renato Recio]

[Text] Employing its customary bullying tone, the United States Government has made an end to the economic blockade and to its policy of aggression against Cuba contingent on our country's adoption of an electoral system based on the existence of several political parties.

The claque that is calling for capitulation to the empire never neglects to emphasize, moreover, that a multiparty system is the "big solution" to our national problems.

Both are speaking in the tone of those who propose new paths, but they seem to forget that our people have an indelible memory of what living for more than a half century under a fully functioning multiparty system meant to the Cuban people.

We must bear in mind that the country that wants to impose its democratic prescriptions on us is the same one that, after meddling in our war of independence and, later, occupying Cuba militarily more than once, was also the designer and architect of the political institutions and structures that were to dominate here for more than 50 years.

Throughout that entire period the Yankees had a unique, one-time opportunity to apply their prescriptions and force us to replicate even the Capitol Building, not to mention the U.S. Constitution, which is also more or less a copy. In short, they had the opportunity to develop their form of democracy in our country, with its esteemed basic element: a multiparty system.

But the upshot of this unique opportunity, which was well within our grasp, was primitive electoral hucksterism, savage individualism, an ongoing trend toward the dissipation of a national, patriotic spirit, slavishness to foreign interests, and a concept of the state as the property of the rulers, with the resulting inordinate theft and corruption.

There were parties by the dozen in Cuba; but, no matter the period, one could hardly tell them apart by their ideas or programs, with rare exceptions.

At the turn of the century a pithy saying became famous: "There is no one more like a conservative than a liberal, and vice versa."

Since the purpose of the traditional parties, which emerged from the neocolonial mold, was above all to get elected, the candidates, who gave little thought to their uncultured demagoguery, normally resorted to fraud and vote-buying.

The voters did not command a very high price, and in the election market politicians all too often paid it by promising a scholarship or admission to a hospital. Civil servants were forced to vote for whoever happened to be in power, at the risk of losing their jobs.

The system operated through money and bribery and was designed and structured so that only the parties that represented in Cuba the high bourgeoisie in the sugar industry, the large landowners, and the large-scale importers had a chance to win. These groups constituted the Cuban oligarchy and left no room even for the representatives of industries other than sugar.

By and large, it cost a great deal of money to get into Congress, as is the case today in the United States, and as a result only wealthy individuals could afford it. They made extraordinary profits from elected office, as if it were just another business, and at the same time protected the interests of the financial groups that they were serving and that had made their election possible.

It was U.S. overseer Charles Magoon, not some wily homegrown politico, who created the system that every governor of the subjugated republic made use of: cushy jobs.

Back in the days of the multiparty system the general feeling was, to put it succinctly, that decent people did not get involved in politics.

The upstanding citizens and revolutionaries who decided to enter the political struggle through elections in an attempt to change the country's situation were pointed to by the governing structure as the best example of that democracy. However, their chances of taking the reins of power and changing conditions were actually nonexistent under those rules.

It was in the shadow of the interests of U.S. companies, which overlapped with the self-interest of the native oligarchy, that the big decisions were made and authorities and political figures were installed and removed, sometimes through elections, other times by assassination, and still other times by coups d'etat. Our brief history as a republic is filled with such examples.

We must not underestimate the fact that the two greatest figures in Cuban political thought, who so excelled in both human virtue and intelligence, both avoided, each in his own day, fostering the disintegration of our national spirit and unity through a multiparty system.

This essential similarity between Marti and Fidel does not stem solely from the deep admiration that the latter professes for the former. Rather, in spite of their different eras and the natural evolution of political ideas, they both thought, quite rightly, that any other party that might be established, not being the party of the revolution, would sooner or later represent U.S. interests or the interests of U.S. agents.

This has not changed over time, nor has it changed the image and nature of those who worship the multiparty system, even though in some cases, as the song goes, they may be "serving up the past in new glasses."

Just as the parties of prerevolutionary times drew mostly on those who made politics an unseemly profession, parasites called not by duty or vocation but by a lack of talent and desire to pursue other activities gainfully, today we see in the "big shots" who speak out from Miami or in our few internal dissidents the same wretched mediocrity, the same sickly vanity, the same eagerness to be slavish courtiers, the same selfishness that gives no thought to the well-being of others.

In short, we see the same dogs and, to make matters worse, each is wearing the same collar.

## Haiti

### National Assembly Suspended After Walkouts

*FL1803232792 Port-au-Prince Radio Tropic FM in Creole 2200 GMT 18 Mar 92*

[Text] The National Assembly session was suspended at approximately 2140 GMT after President of the Assembly Dejean Belizaire acknowledged that the quorum had been nullified, meaning that, in conformity with the Constitution, there were not enough deputies and senators to allow the National Assembly to be held.

This occurred after numerous parliamentarians, including Julio Larosiliere, Senator Bernard Sansaricq, Senator Amos Andre, Eddy Dupiton, Franck Leonard, Judnel Jean, Senator Remy, Deputy Vital, Deputy Benoit Laguerre, Deputy Josue Lafrance, and several other deputies and senators walked out of the session. We should recall that the session began at 1730 GMT with 90 parliamentarians comprising deputies and senators. They met today at the Legislative Palace to sanction the Washington agreement signed by elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and a parliamentary committee on 23 February. On 15 March, President of the National Assembly Dejean Belizaire notified the parliamentarians of this session.

We recall that Article 102 of the Constitution provides for a minimum of 41 deputies and 14 senators to allow the National Assembly to be held. Deputy Deus Jean-Francois comments on what just took place.

[Begin Jean-Francois recording] After what took place, it appears unfortunate that we were unable to proceed very far into the debate—I am not saying up to the vote—but we could have gone much farther into the arguments and ideas could have been presented. However, suspending the session might be a good thing so that many people can question themselves and find the voice of wisdom and reason so that we may resume very soon on the right footing. [end recording]

What is the agenda? Several observers wonder if this was a calculated strategy.

### More on Parliamentary Session

*FL1903130992 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1235 GMT 19 Mar 92*

[Text] Haitian lawmakers have again postponed a parliamentary vote on the plan to restore ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Four hours after the joint session began eighteen senators and deputies opposed to the return of Mr. Aristide walked out of the Chamber, resulting in the loss of a quorum needed in order to vote.

The debate is being mediated by the Organization of American States. A new session to consider the accord has not been scheduled as yet.

### Parliamentarians, Journalists Reportedly Attacked

*FL1903022492 Port-au-Prince Radio Tropic FM in Creole 2300 GMT 18 Mar 92*

[Excerpts] According to several people who were at the Chamber, notably deputies and senators, there were various plans to invalidate the quorum. The first plan was to offer money. The second maneuver was to incite senators and deputies to fight among themselves, which is what we saw. The deputies also informed us that the third plan was to invalidate the quorum, meaning, if a deputy or senator was not pleased with something he was to walk out of the session. That took place at the last minute and the National Assembly had to suspend today. As a consequence, the agreement was not signed [sentence as heard].

Other events took place today. Several senators and deputies were attacked. Among them were Turneb Delpe, National Front for Change and Democracy [FNCD] senator for the West Department, and Pierre-Canel Rindal, FNCD deputy for Carrefour. FNCD member Ernst-Pedro Caseus was also attacked today. Frantz Robert Monde narrowly escaped an attack by several civilians who were loitering near the Parliament. Edmond (Mirol), La-Gonave deputy, was also attacked. [passage omitted]

Attacks were reported on several other people attending this session, specifically journalists carrying their press cards. Four journalists, among them Claudy Villedroin who works for Haiti Relais and Georges Dupe, were also attacked. Two others were arrested but at this time we are unable to verify this information or provide the names of these journalists.

### President Warns Belizaire of Illegality

*FL1803160992 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1200 GMT 18 Mar 92*

[Text] There is a running battle between the executive power and the legislative power. The point of contention is the Washington agreement, which will be submitted to the vote of the National Assembly within a few hours.

Indeed, only a few hours before the session, the tension has increased between the two powers because of a letter President Joseph Nerette sent to the Parliament. In this letter, the head of the provisional executive rejects again the Washington agreement. Judge Nerette takes the opportunity, as well, to warn the members of the legislative power against the series of violations of the Constitution, which is a situation the president says tends to provoke a conflict of powers that can (?only) be prejudicial to the nation and the Haitian people.

The provisional president also points out that he has been unable to find any legal provision entitling the president of Parliament to convene National Assembly session. He further says that he has not managed to identify any legal provision which places the agreement within the powers of the National Assembly, as provided for by the 1987 Constitution.

In his letter to the president of the National Assembly, Judge Nerette voices legal reservations as to this act, which he says is void because of a lack of authority in the parties and because of flaws in consent among those who signed it. He notes they did so before any debate regarding its validity.

Furthermore, the provisional president of the Republic draws the attention of the president of the Chamber to the sacred principle of the separation of powers. This democratic balance would not exist any longer, states Judge Nerette, if the signing and the ratification of conventions proceeded from the same power, the same body. The head of state reminds that it is within his constitutional power, as well as his duty, to watch over and insure respect for and implementation of the Constitution, as well as watch over the stability of the various branches, and to insure the regular functioning of public powers including the legislative.

In this letter to Dejean Belizaire, the head of the Parliament, President Nerette announces that he does not intend to join, quote: a series of deliberate violations of the Constitution. Unquote. Judge Nerette says he has reservations as to the path into which they want to lead the legislative power.

It should be pointed out that this letter was handed over to the president of the National Assembly personally. That is what he told us this morning. He did not know about the latest decisions made or about the executive's steps to prevent the convening of the National Assembly.

According to Dejean Belizaire, the National Assembly meeting is still scheduled for 18 March at 1600 GMT, as previously announced. It is to be recalled as well that the talks, the contacts between the executive and the legislative, were broken off 14 March following the decision of Senator Dejean Belizaire and Chamber of Deputies President Alexandre Medard not to attend the meeting between the ministerial committee and the representatives of the Parliament.

## Court Denies Requesting Assembly Postponement

*FL1803181892 Port-au-Prince Radio Tropic FM in French 1600 GMT 18 Mar 92*

[Text] Yesterday [17 Mar] the provisional government sent a request to the Court of Cassation to declare the Washington agreement unconstitutional.

This request, signed by lawyers Arnold Blain, Mireille Durocher Bertin, and Ramon Guillaume, declares that the agreement must not be submitted to the parliamentarians for ratification today.

However, answering Tropic FM's questions this morning, Court of Cassation President Judge Emile Jonassaint formally denied what was announced on Television Nationale d'Haiti [TNH] last night. The Court of Cassation cannot ask for such a thing. The Court of Cassation does not have anything to ask anybody for and does not have anything to send to anybody, alluding to the reports that a court clerk—as announced by TNH—allegedly delivered a note from the Court to the president of the Senate. The Court of Cassation renders decisions. Period. I was quoting from Judge Emile Jonassaint who was contacted this morning by Tropic FM on the phone.

Anyway, everything is ready for this morning's session. Our reporters on the spot told us that most of the parliamentarians are already at the Legislative Palace.

## Agreement Amnesty Article Wording Called Unclear

*FL1803183492 Port-au-Prince LE NOUVELLISTE in French No 34.257 17 Mar 92 pp 1,8*

[Text] A few hours before the meeting of the National Assembly session to vote on the Washington agreement, great confusion continues regarding the wording of the document signed in Washington between the parliamentary committee and President Aristide under the auspices of the Organization of American States [OAS].

The obscure point concerns Article 5.1 of the agreement regarding the general amnesty.

The document published in Haiti stipulates on page 4:

Article 5—The parties recognize the necessity to:

Article 5.1 - Declare a general amnesty, except for common criminals. (Text 1)

Nevertheless, there is another wording that we became aware of only last night, which stipulates:

Article 5—The parties recognize the necessity to:

Article 5.1 - Declare a general amnesty for those who participated in the 29 and 30 September coup d'etat and for all individuals, groups, or indicated sectors, without prejudice to pursuits in civil reparations and related common crimes. (Text 2)

Questioned this morning by LE NOUVELLISTE, Senators Thomas Eddy Dupiton, Jean Robert Martinez, and Deputy Duly Brutus, all members of the parliamentary committee, confirm that the second wording is the one signed by the parties. According to Senator Martinez, however, the parties had agreed, at the initiative of Father Aristide's delegation, on modifying this wording as it is stipulated in the text issued in Haiti (Text 3).

The dispute, points out the senator, is that the modified text (on page 4) [not included] was not ready on time at the moment of the signing ceremony at the OAS.

In the same vein, Micha Gaillard, member of President Aristide's delegation, stated that, quote: Not to disturb the ceremony, unquote, the parties signed the agreement, quote: with the proviso that the litigious passage (which is part of the version before the last one of the document) be rectified by the OAS mission secretariat. [no end quote as published]

This does not seem to be the opinion of Senator Dupiton and Deputy Brutus, who state that they recognize only the signed version. (Text 2).

Which of the two versions will be submitted tomorrow [18 March] for the ratification of the National Assembly?

## Salinas: Free Trade Negotiations Satisfactory

*PA1803231392 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 18 Mar 92*

[Report by Juan Manuel Pereira]

[Text] President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, U.S. President George Bush, and Canadian Prime Minister Bryan Mulroney agreed that negotiations for a free trade agreement among the three nations are progressing satisfactorily.

The three presidents held a telephone conversation to review the negotiations process. President Salinas de Gortari disclosed aspects of his conversation with Bush and Mulroney at the closing of the 74th Assembly of the Confederation of Industrial Chambers, Concamin.

[Begin Salinas recording] During our conversation, we discussed the report recently presented to us by our negotiators. Based on the progress made, we concluded that negotiations are going satisfactorily. In other words, negotiations are taking place as scheduled. [end recording]

President Salinas stressed the importance of this trade agreement for all Mexicans.

[Begin Salinas recording] As soon as the treaty is ready, I will have its full text published so all Mexicans can discuss its contents. The treaty will be open for the study by and participation of all Mexicans. [end recording]

President Salinas said the Mexican negotiating team, composed of government representatives, businessmen, workers, professors, lawyers, and treaty experts, has formed a unified front during 24 months' work.

[Begin Salinas recording] Since the beginning of the process of consultation and negotiations two years ago, there have been 1,333 meetings among Mexicans, in which negotiators and businessmen have participated within the framework of COESE [Coordinator for Foreign Trade Business Organizations]. Of those meetings, 522 were held before the formal beginning of the negotiations and 811 were held afterward. [end recording]

President Salinas de Gortari said that, within the framework of the new economic relations between Mexico and the world, the Mexican Government is committed to support the productive efforts of all Mexicans.

## Hungarian Foreign Minister Concludes Visit

*PA1403213792 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0930 GMT 14 Mar 92*

[Text] Mexico City, 14 Mar (NOTIMEX)—Geza Jeszenszky, Hungarian foreign affairs minister, concluded on 13 March a two-day official visit to Mexico with the promise that Mexican investors will participate in the Hungarian food, petrochemical, and tourism industries.

The foreign minister stated: "There are adequate guaranties for investment in Hungary. The law provides the guaranties and social stability facilitates these investments."

After meeting with President Carlos Salinas de Gortari and his colleague Fernando Solana Morales, Jeszenszky noted that for Hungary "it is encouraging" to take as an example Mexico's experiences, as both nations seek the well-being of their people.

This is why, the foreign minister said, he hoped that the proposals developed in talks with Salinas de Gortari are implemented soon. Jeszenszky said these are aimed at "calling Mexicans' attention to Hungary and the other neighboring nations."

Just before departing, the foreign minister said it is good for Hungary to learn about Mexico's achievements because often these are not well-known or appreciated to their full extent.

## El Salvador

### Rebels Testify About U.S. Advisers' Murder

#### Defense Lawyer Gives Views

*PA1903000392 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 2130 GMT 17 Mar 92*

[Report monitored in progress]

[Text] ... the Chinameca Lower Court, in San Miguel Department, in the presence of the persons implicated in the murder of two U.S. advisers, which took place in San Francisco Canton, Lolotique Jurisdiction in Chinameca. As we said at the beginning, a large number of newsmen and Chinameca residents are gathered here. One of the accused has given his testimony. We are going to listen to the remarks by Omar Pastore, the lawyer defending the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] rebels; Commander Aparicio, whose real name is Severiano Fuentes; and combatant Porfirio Ferman Hernandez. Pastore is handling the defense of the accused. We were not able to obtain any information inside the court, but we obtained his views on the case and the statements by one of the accused. Here is Mr. Pastore.

[Begin Pastore recording] What has been established so far is who fired the fatal shot. He acted on his own and was not following orders. The decision was left up to him. It was Porfirio. Under those circumstances, Unit Chief Commander Aparicio has to answer for this action. He was the unit chief. This constituted an act of revolutionary warfare, however, like any other action in any armed conflict.

Helicopter gunships had strafed the area in previous days. This was a helicopter gunship. They saw the aircraft and began to fire. The first to open fire were the five helicopters that were in the lead. Then another helicopter confronted the unit where Porfirio was deployed. That is when Porfirio fired at the helicopter and downed it. After the helicopter crashed, the guerrillas surrounded it. By then the pilot was dead. Two crewmen were wounded and the guerrillas provided aid. The guerrillas removed the sevicemen 20 meters away from the helicopter so they would not get burned. They even removed the body of the pilot and took it away from the helicopter so it would not burn either.

Aparicio specifically instructed the rebels to respect the lives of the wounded. The whole town helped. They moved the wounded from the crash site. There was nothing unusual up until that point. When the rebels were withdrawing, Aparicio told Porfirio to check on the helicopter and to fire at it if it had not burned. He also told him to check on the condition of the wounded, and to make the right decision if their condition was critical or if they were in great pain. That is what Porfirio did. He went there; he saw that the helicopter had burned and fired at it. He saw the pitiful condition of the wounded. He said: their condition was so grave that I immediately put myself in their place. I told my comrades that even if they were my comrades that they should finish me off if I should ever be in a situation like that. This is the most regrettable, sad, and painful aspect. I then decided to finish them off to stop their suffering, he said. That is exactly what is coming out in the trial. The next step is drafting the report. At the opportune time, the judge will decide whether to bring the case to court or to drop it. Later, if any of the accused has to stand trial, it will be up to the jury to decide. [end recording]

These were the remarks by defense lawyer Pastore a few minutes following the conclusion of the first interrogation of Commander Aparicio by the prosecutor's office, the defense, UN Observers for El Salvador personnel, and Supreme Court of Justice officials. After a lunch break, Porfirio will begin his testimony. We will bring to you his statements during this radio station's nightly news roundup, as we have been closely following the details of this incident. FMLN Commander Jonas [Jorge Melendez] turned the accused over to Supreme Court Chief Justice Mauricio Gutierrez and Chinameca Judge Dinora Andrade de Lazo.

#### Overview of Developments

*PA1903130292 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 18 Mar 92 p 2*

[Excerpts] Former guerrillas Severiano Fuentes and Ferman Hernandez, also known as Aparicio and Porfirio, on 17 March admitted to a Chinameca court that they killed two U.S. airmen after shooting down their helicopter in Chinameca in January 1991. Fuentes and Hernandez were taken to the First Instance Court in Chinameca, San Miguel Department, and handed over to Mauricio Gutierrez Castro, president of the Supreme Court of Justice, at 0925.

The men, who were accompanied by "Commander" Jorge Melendez, also known as Jonas, and members of the UN Observers for El Salvador [ONUSAL], arrived in a Japanese-made vehicle and had to elbow their way through a crowd that had been waiting anxiously to see them since early in the afternoon. At least two guerrillas in olive green uniforms and red bandannas around their necks stayed on the street, while a UN helicopter flew over the town of Chinameca.

Approximately 400 local residents peered through the court's windows. The residents forgot their daily duties, children requested permission to be absent from their schools, the market was deserted, and housewives ceased their chores.

According to the legal proceedings, Porfirio, on Aparicio's suggestion, shot Lieutenant Colonel David Pickett and Technician Earnest Dawson in cold blood as they lay badly wounded in their crashed helicopter. A third crewman, Daniel Scott, died on impact. The crime was committed on 2 January 1991 in a mountainous area near San Francisco, Lolotique, San Miguel Department.

In the presence of Judge Dinora del Carmen Andrade de Lazo, the accused men admitted their responsibility for the murders but argued they were "mercy killings." Aparicio said he led the subversive column that shot down the aircraft and that shortly thereafter he found the two badly wounded airmen. He suggested to Porfirio: "If you think it will take them some time to die, put them out of their misery." According to the testimony, Porfirio returned to the Americans and shot them. Aparicio says he only heard the shots from a distance. Local people commented that this murder was not at all unusual because terrorists usually administer a final shot to their own wounded men.

Regarding "Commander Dominguez," a third man involved in the case, Aparicio said that the man was his subordinate and that Dominguez left the place before the crime. The accused men said the column members communicated with one another with two-way radios.

With the approval of the two parties, the hearing was observed by the Supreme Court president; Philippe Texier, ONUSAL's human rights leader; Omar Pastor, counsel for the defense; and "Commander Jonas." A U.S. Embassy representative was to have observed the hearing but left before the proceedings started.[passage omitted]

If the court rules that the accused men must be tried by a jury, the public hearing could be held in San Salvador because "trials of some importance are usually held in larger cities," Gutierrez Castro said.

Melendez said the accused appeared "voluntarily" to clear up the crime. He said the FMLN "will cooperate with the Salvadoran judicial system which, although imperfect, is competent to conduct the trial."[passage omitted]

At 1700, at the end of the testimony, the men were taken to Mariona Prison by Gutierrez Castro and ONUSAL and Justice Ministry delegates.

## Cristiani on Peace Process, FMLN Political Role

*PA1803141892 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Mar 92*

[Text] The Salvadoran president said on 17 March in Guatemala City that the Salvadoran Government has been able to implement constitutional reforms without problems despite the apprehensions that prevailed on the issue. President Alfredo Cristiani said this during a breakfast with several Guatemalan media representatives.

The Salvadoran president also recognized the problems that prevail concerning the reincorporation of Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] members into the country's institutional life after peace was achieved in his country.

[Begin Cristiani recording] The FMLN's reincorporation into the country's legal, institutional, and civilian life is part of the agreements and is equally important. It involves seeking an uneventful reincorporation of former FMLN fighters into the country's production activities and giving them an opportunity to form the political party they want. This is perhaps the most difficult thing to handle and we are striving toward this goal right now. The FMLN will no longer be an armed political group. It will become an unarmed political group.

This transition, the FMLN's reincorporation into the country's civilian life, is the most difficult phase of the process that began on 16 January, referring to the implementation of the agreements. This is where most of the problems are encountered within the peace process. I would like to tell you that we do not think, for the time being at least, that the process is in crisis. We knew that the implementation of the agreements would not be easy, particularly the FMLN's reincorporation, and that problems would arise. A team of negotiators sometimes believes something is best, yet different groups state their displeasure when it is implemented. This calls for an adjustment—if you want to call it that—to some of the measures that must be implemented to comply with the agreements.

The first phase of the agreements called for the separation of forces. The Armed Forces and the FMLN had to gather in places that were predetermined in the negotiations. This gathering of forces should have been accomplished by 12 March. The Salvadoran Armed Forces have already gathered at the stipulated places and.... [pauses] We were in Guatemala on the day the FMLN said it would complete its gathering of forces but we expect its forces should now be gathered at the 15 places specified in the peace agreements. Not all the FMLN members were willing to gather and stay in 15 zones for practically eight and a half months, so they failed to comply with the 12 March deadline. Direct talks with the FMLN, with the participation of the assistant UN secretary, convinced them of the need to gather in those zones so the process could continue.

There is another issue aside from this obstacle. We have been asked about it several times and I will discuss it now: gunrunning from El Salvador to Guatemala. The evidence we have shows that weapons that had been used by the FMLN have now appeared in Guatemala. We believe the FMLN is currently engaged in gunrunning to Guatemala. It apparently involves not only the participation of irregular armed groups in Guatemala but also the existence of a market. We have been told that common criminals are using weapons that reportedly come from the FMLN.

We think this issue should be handled jointly. El Salvador cannot work unilaterally right now. In fact, we think Honduras should also become involved because Honduras has been—at least during the Salvadoran conflict—one of the corridors through which lots of weapons were shipped to El Salvador. We do not doubt that its location is ideal for smuggling weapons through

the Guatemalan-Honduran border. President Serrano and I have agreed to carry out joint activities, not operations, to prevent this gunrunning that seems to have become a black market similar to the one created in Nicaragua after the peace agreements were signed between the contras and the Sandinist National Liberation Front. [end recording]

### Vargas on FMLN Noncompliance With Agreements

*PA1803193792 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 16 Mar 92 p 28*

[Text] General Mauricio Vargas, the Armed Forces representative to the government-FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] dialogue commission and deputy chief of staff, was recently interviewed by a television network. Vargas referred to UN Deputy Secretary General Marrack Goulding's visit to El Salvador at the invitation of the Salvadoran Government and to the FMLN's noncompliance with the agreements.

With regard to the latter, he cited the fact that the FMLN should have concentrated its forces at the designated sites by 2 March and failed to do so. Later, the FMLN promised to move its forces by 15 March, but the action has evidently been delayed again.

Mr. Goulding's statements have been published elsewhere. We would like to report the statements made by Gen. Vargas about the FMLN not complying with the stipulated date to gather its forces at designated sites. He said: "We believe the FMLN's lack of compliance with the date (2 March) is serious, even though we must say that implementation of the process has experienced an overall delay. The problem has arisen because the FMLN has adopted the discretionary attitude of not following the spirit or the letter of the agreements. The FMLN has unilaterally postponed the date for concentrating its forces by 15 March. The agreement specifically stipulates that the Armed Forces must concentrate its men at 62 gathering sites and the FMLN at 15 sites by 2 March."

Vargas later noted: "This is definitely serious because I do not consider it acceptable for one of the parties to take a discretionary attitude on compliance with the stipulated dates. This is completely unacceptable because it endangers the entire peace process. If today the FMLN unduly claims to have this right, tomorrow the government can do the same. These actions will result in mutual charges that will not benefit the peace process. However, it is one thing to confront each other and quite another to place compliance with the agreements in its real dimension. We both have rights and we both have the right to make demands. This should not imply confrontation."

Later he stated: "In this sense, we consider it very, very serious for the FMLN to have unduly claimed the right to delay compliance with the agreements. There has been talk of a crisis and of several problems. No. This is a clear and specific lack of compliance with the agreement. It is troubling to see a non-compulsory attitude adopted by the FMLN to delay the implementation dates of the agreements. It is serious because it allows the parties to arbitrarily claim this right at a given moment and change the predetermined and scheduled dates of compliance."

Gen. Vargas was asked why the FMLN acted in this manner and he responded: "This could be part of a strategy. I believe the FMLN must first understand that the conflict has ended and, second, that the negotiations have also ended. We are building peace now. Confrontation and the use of force ceased as of 1 February. We now use law and reason, mutual respect, and tolerance as the prime avenues toward further peace."

### Armed Forces Accused of Weapons' Trafficking

*PA1903133692 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 18 Mar 92*

[Communique issued by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, in San Salvador on 17 March]

[Text] During the past several hours government and Armed Forces officials have been meeting with Guatemalan Government officials and the Guatemalan president regarding alleged arms trafficking to Guatemala from Central America. The FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] has accused the Salvadoran Armed Forces of this trafficking. The FMLN has issued a communique on this issue:

The FMLN accuses the Armed Forces of weapons trafficking to Guatemala.

1. The responsibility for weapons trafficking to benefit criminal activities in Central America falls directly on the Salvadoran Armed Forces.

2. During the war, the Salvadoran Armed Forces irresponsibly armed thousands of civilians with war equipment. Proof of this is that in San Salvador residential neighborhoods and many farms and estates in the departments bordering Guatemala veritable arsenals are in the hands of the vast landholders and their armies of bodyguards. According to the agreements signed in Chapultepec, which the government agreed to comply with and enforce, they should already have been disarmed.

3. The Salvadoran Armed Forces' involvement in weapons trafficking was clearly apparent in the case of the bombs taken from the Air Force, in which two high-ranking military officers linked to international drug trafficking are directly involved.

4. Mr. Alfredo Cristiani's government and the Armed Forces still have not revealed the whereabouts of the war weapons that were seized from the FMLN, particularly the million dollar group of missiles confiscated last year in San Salvador.

5. Guatemala has always been the Salvadoran military paradise for contraband, not only of weapons, but also of stolen vehicles. It is surprising that this new slanderous

campaign, full of lies, appears just as Colonel Francisco Elena Fuentes is appointed military attache to that country, which is well aware that Salvadoran Armed Forces patrol cars commit assaults and robberies on Guatemalan roads bordering San Salvador. The most notorious case involved a General Eusebio Bracamontes Battalion patrol car.

6. These facts confirm the urgent need for a true purge of the Salvadoran Armed Forces of individuals and entire units who have caused so much harm to El Salvador and to Central America.

7. The Guatemalan Government should ask the Salvadoran Government to disband immediately its intelligence structure and its illegal traffic of weapons, stolen vehicles, and even drugs in the sisterly nation of Guatemala.

[Signed] Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front
[Issued] San Salvador, 17 March 1992

### Civic Coordinating Board Issues Communique

*PA1903040292 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1230 GMT 18 Mar 92*

[Civic Coordinating Board Issues Communique announcing the opening of a new radio station]

[Text] The Civic Coordinating Board for the Defense of Democracy [CCPD] has reappeared issuing a communique stating that the Salvadoran people are resisting every attempt to lead the country toward international communism.

The Civic Coordinating Board, which identifies itself through the acronym CCPD also expresses its opposition to the radio programs of the rebel stations as well as to those of Radio YSUCA. It announced that during the forthcoming days it will begin transmitting through a radio station that will be called La Voz Patriotica [Patriotic Voice]. In this respect, they have announced that frequencies and program scheduling will be disclosed shortly. The communique issued by the CCPD is as follows:

The CCPD, the patriotic and peaceful voice of a people that resists every goal to deliver the country to international communism hereby states as follows:

We consider all methods currently being used to take over land and then to proceed with a so-called land distribution among deceived peasants, are specifically aimed at increasing tension between all social classes. These are classic examples of methods at one time used by Fidel Castro. We are opposed to any land and private property takeover and demand that the government respect all the laws of the Republic of El Salvador.

We also condemn any intention by the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] to create martyrs for discrediting purposes. Moreover, we condemn the FMLN's flashy pursuit of publicity by taking advantage of all those media representatives who are eager to play their game. As an example, we note cases such as Melida Anaya Montes, Roque Dalton, FENASTRAS [Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation], as weLl as all those modest people who work for organizations controlled by the FMLN, and whom they tend to manipulate. Likewise, we condemn and reject all threats made by union activists involved in international communism. These union activists have resorted to pressuring and harassing the working class to promote violence by encouraging anarchy and blocking judicial and legal enquiries.

We express our opposition to those radio programs such as YSUCA, the rebel stations and other stations, through which international communism intends to divide all Salvadorans, especially our youth and children. Therefore, we express our intention to establish our own radio station which will be called La Voz Patriotica. We will shortly announce the frequencies and schedules we will be using.

Peace, Justice, Democracy.
Civic Coordinating Board for the Defense of Democracy.

### Jesuits Decry 'Arbitrary' Deportation of Priest

*PA1903003492 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 17 Mar 92 p 34*

[Paid advertisement of the Central American Province of the Society of Jesus; date not given]

[Text] In view of the deportation of Father Steve Kelly, a member of the Society of Jesus [SJ], the SJ of El Salvador and the Central American Province of the SJ hereby announce the following:

Father Steve Kelly, a U.S. Jesuit priest, had been living for over one year in the country carrying out pastoral duties in Usulutan Department as directed by Father Jose Maria Tojeira, the SJ Central American provincial director, and authorized by Monsignor Rodrigo Orlando Cabrera, Bishop of the Diocese of Santiago de Maria.

On 11 March, Father Kelly was at the El Campeche Estate in Jiquilisco when the Jiquilico justice of peace and the National Police arrived to evict the peasants who had been living and working at that estate for some time. Father Kelly invited the authorities to talk about the issue, inasmuch as the eviction was violating the peace agreements because the land was in an area of conflict. Ignoring the priest's requests, the authorities violently began to destroy the huts of the peasants. Moved by humanitarian and Christian reasons and to prevent this outrage, Father Kelly went inside one of the huts. Father Kelly and two peasants were then captured and taken to the National Police [PN] station in Usulutan. On the following day, 12 March, Justice of the Peace Serrano lifted the charges against Father Kelly for which he had been arrested and said that following orders of the Supreme Court of Justice, Father Kelly could be released

but he first had to be taken to the immigration director general. A National Police lieutenant in charge of the station rejected the order as it was contradictory. Nonetheless, he agreed to take again Father Kelly to the PN station at Usulutan, from where he was sent to the PN headquarters at San Salvador.

In San Salvador, the colonel in charge of the PN headquarters told Maria Julia Hernandez, of the Archbishop's Legal Assistance Office, that the president of the republic had issued a specific deporatation order for the priest.

At 0900 on 13 March, Jesuit leaders explained to the proper authorities Father Kelly's situation. These authorities said they were not aware of the case and offered their good offices to clarify and settle the situation. This was also what immigration officials told the United Nations' Observers for El Salvador [ONUSAL] members at 1130 on that day. At 1430, however, the immigration officials reported that they had been instructed to deport Father Kelly. Finally, he was deported at 1615.

In view of these facts, the SJ clarifies that Father Kelly tried to make the authorities understand that the dislodgment of peasants violated the agreements signed in Mexico and, therefore, the action does not contribute to peace in the area. Only when the authorities resorted to violence did Father Kelly use peaceful means to prevent the unjust destruction of the peasants' homes.

SJ hereby reports the arbitrary and contradictory elements in the expulsion of Father Kelly. The Society decries the political shortsightedness of the people who decided the deportation of Father Kelly because, while social and governmental circles request that thousands of Salvadorans residing in the United States not be deported, the Salvadoran immigration authorities, on instructions from the Presidency, expel a U.S. citizen on charges he identified himself with Salvadoran poor.

Finally, we are making an appeal so that the tension created by the land ownership issue in the country will not lead the government to take measures inconsistent with the peace agreements. Rather, we hope that the problem can be solved calmly and in the spirit and letter of the agreements.

[Signed] Father Adan Cuadra, temporary member of the Society of Jesus.

## Guatemala

### Occasion of Salvadoran President's Visit Viewed

### Results 'Positive'

*PA1803180992 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 2242 GMT 17 Mar*

[Interview with Vice President Gustavo Espina Salguero at the National Palace in Guatemala City by unidentified reporter—live]

[Text] [Reporter] What is your opinion on the Salvadoran president's visit? Do you think the results were positive?

[Espina] I believe that Guatemala and El Salvador have historically maintained excellent relations, which are currently at their peak. The signing of a free trade agreement is an unprecedented act in the history of Guatemalan-Salvadoran relations. We are optimistic and expect trade to increase significantly, which will benefit free trade and will favor consumers.

I must add that we have many historical ties with El Salvador. Peace is being consolidated in El Salvador, and hopefully Guatemala will soon achieve peace. Our countries have suffered similar situations during the past few years, but today Presidents Serrano and Cristiani are trying to find solutions to the problems affecting our countries.

We will sign several other agreements, but basically, the economic aspect is most important. We are honored by President Cristiani's visit. He is a very humble and capable man. Guatemala is very happy to have him as our guest.

[Reporter] What do you think about recent terrorist actions?

[Espina] It is always sad to learn about actions, such as the blowing up of a Guatemala Telecommunications Enterprise tower in El Peten, and other similar actions. Obviously, those guerrillas have no conscience. Frankly, they are showing they are not interested in attaining peace. The Guatemalan people, the poor, are the ones who suffer. It makes me angry and sad to see that, while they think that they are hurting the Army, the Guatemalan Government or a specific government institution, the only ones hurt are the Guatemalan people. Unpretentious, poor Guatemalans cannot contact their relatives because of communication problems. They claim that this is a strategy to distract the Army, which is a big lie.

I recall a televised program with old commanders. We are talking about completely different times. We are looking to the future, with hope and optimism because we believe that better days are ahead. We have won this battle in the military field thanks to our professional Army. We have also won the battle in the international field, and now we are about to see social investments, union among Guatemalans, as a great solution. There is no time for nonsense.

### Free Trade Agreement Signed

*PA1803185192 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0020 GMT 18 Mar 92*

[Text] Listeners, we would like to report that just moments ago Guatemala and El Salvador signed an agreement on free trade and economic integration between the two countries. It has five articles, of which we would like to read the most important.

The second article states the two governments will immediately eliminate all measures that might limit,

restrict, or impair any form of free trade between Guatemala and El Salvador. In addition, it states that the governments of the two countries agree to reach a border and customs agreement within two years after the signing of this agreement. To this end, they will immediately implement the following measures: Establish a uniform import and export tax system; determine the foundations for a common customs administration, whose income would be divided equally between Guatemala and El Salvador; and conduct the necessary research to harmonize or conform each country's macroeconomic policies.

Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani will travel to the Guatemalan Air Force Base and then fly home to his country after completing a visit that lasted a little longer than the 30 hours originally planned.

We would like to add that the unified passport for Central Americans will be implemented as of 1 July 1992.

### Cristiani Urges Peace With Rebels

*PA1803231992 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0340 GMT 18 Mar 92*

[Text] Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani has urged Guatemalans to exert political pressure on the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity and speed up the signing of peace agreements, as happened in El Salvador.

[Begin Cristiani recording] It is important to state in this forum, because you have a lot to say on what happens in your own country, that it is necessary to exert pressure on the irregular armed groups in Guatemala so that they sincerely and willingly seek a peace agreement. We believe that, in our case, the absence of political pressure on the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front to end the conflict in El Salvador would have extended the peace process. The Salvadoran community as a whole, including the media, particularly the media given its influence, created the necessary conditions to achieve peace and put an end to violence. I believe one of the best contributions you can make in Guatemala is to close off the opportunities for violence and let those who use violence know that this is not the way to work for Guatemala's future. Let those who resort to violence know that they will be left behind in history. [end recording]

### 'Issue of Stability' for Region

*PA1903000692 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0340 GMT 18 Mar 92*

[Text] In statements given on 17 March Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani said his government is willing to help in the peace process currently under way to settle the armed conflict in our country—provided that the Guatemalans request it. Cristiani said that in any case, the differences between the Guatemalan and the Salvadoran process makes it impossible to handle and solve them from in the same manner.

[Begin Cristiani recording] We believe that the Guatemalan process is not necessarily identical to the Salvadoran process. It has special situations and characteristics that make it different. Nevertheless, we have experience and this is always useful. We have told President Serrano we are willing to do whatever Guatemala requests to help the country successfully carry out its peace process. We want to cooperate because we know the Guatemalans will not be the only ones to benefit if violence ends here; it is also an issue of stability for the entire region. [end recording]

### Weapons Contraband Issue Analyzed

*PA1803174692 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 17 Mar 92 p 6*

[Text] On 16 March, Generals Jose Domingo Samayoa and Rene Emilio Ponce, Guatemalan defense minister and Salvadoran Armed Forces chief, respectively, began analyzing the possibility that weapons shipments from El Salvador may be entering Guatemalan territory and measures to counter such illegal action.

After arriving in the country on 16 March with the delegation led by President Alfredo Cristiani, Gen. Ponce reported the Salvadoran Armed Forces have launched a full investigation to verify the veracity of the report on weapons contraband.

The kind of weapons allegedly being shipped to Guatemala is not known, the chief of the Salvadoran Armed Forces indicated, but investigators have been sent to establish possible routes and the nature of shipments.

Meanwhile, Gen. Garcia Samayoa said he would propose to his Salvadoran colleague ways to seek mutual cooperation between the two armies to avoid weapons contraband.

The Army has doubled surveillance and security patrols along the Salvadoran border area to counter any problems, Gen. Garcia Samayoa stated.

The defense minister denied the presence of columns of armed individuals, who allegedly belong to the Salvadoran Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, who would have entered the country through Jutiapa Department to join the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity.

## Nicaragua

### FSLN 'Willing To Help' Solve Problems

*PA1803140592 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 16 Mar 92 pp 1, 12*

[Text] Daniel Ortega, secretary general of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], has said his party is willing to help the government find civic and peaceful solutions to the nation's pressing problems and to support efforts to obtain foreign support. Ortega made these

statements on 15 March after the FSLN National Directorate met for over 10 hours on 14 March with President Chamorro's economic cabinet at the Olof Palme Convention Center.

The FSLN reported in a communique, much broader than the one issued by the government, that the meeting had been positive and open and had ratified the need to look, within a civic framework and together with other national sectors, for solutions to the economic crisis. Until now the FSLN groups had been looking for solutions through takeovers, strikes, and noncivic methods. In the 15 March statements the FSLN National Directorate offers to act within civic guidelines.

The Sandinists make this new promise just one week before the meeting in Washington with donor nations. The government has always invited the FSLN to participate in these meetings. In previous meetings, Sergio Ramirez has represented the FSLN, stating support for the government's efforts to try out a plan aimed at resolving the economic and social crisis the nation is experiencing. The government's economic team will travel to Washington on the weekend of 21 to 22 March with a group of special guests including: a member of the private sector, a union member and worker representative, a member of the UNAG [National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen], and an FSLN member.

It was unofficially learned that the FSLN National Directorate had appointed as its delegate former president Daniel Ortega who, it appears, has a prior meeting in New York a few days before the Washington meeting. Ernesto Robleto, director of the Presidency's Information and Press Department, said that during the 7 March meeting the FSLN National Directorate had set out frank positions and "had acknowledged that the government is working very hard to solve the crisis so the nation can go forward."

Daniel Ortega, during a recess and while talking to some ministers at the Olof Palme Convention Center, acknowledged that if the FSLN was in power it would be implementing economic measures similar to those of this government to mitigate the crisis. Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo opened the session with a report on the implications of the economic plan, the social repercussions they generate, and the measures being taken to face them. A report was presented on the progress of the national reconciliation program and on investments in the public works sectors that have generated approximately 80,000 jobs.

The government asked the FSLN to maturely assume its responsibilities in light of the crisis and acknowledged this party's capacity to assist in finding solutions, Robleto said.

Cabinet members said they are not only looking for a temporary solution to the economic crisis but are preparing for the real economic takeoff, taking into account the approaching year 2,000.

Robleto reported that the government will hold similar meetings this week with the Permanent Workers Congress, the Union of Nicaraguan Agricultural-Livestock Producers, and the UNAG. These meetings will serve as input for the Washington meeting and for solving the social problems that burden the nation.

### Government Renegotiates Debt With Former USSR

*PA1803230192 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Mar 92*

[Text] On 17 March the Nicaraguan Government initiated a bilateral debt renegotiation process with the former Soviet Union. Nicaragua's total debt with the former USSR is $3 billion, the largest debt inherited by President Violeta Chamorro from the Sandinist regime that governed Nicaragua for 10 years. Maria Luis Marenco, the Nicaraguan Foreign Trade Ministry's official spokeswoman, said the negotiations are taking place at the Foreign Trade Ministry.

Deputy Foreign Cooperation Minister Sergio Mario Blandon is representing Nicaragua in the debt renegotiation. The former USSR is represented by a six-member delegation headed by (Yuriy A. Bronskiyev), an economic affairs adviser at the Russian Foreign Ministry.

## Argentina

### Reportage on Israeli Embassy Attack Continues

#### Interior Minister Interviewed

*PY1803180492 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1609 GMT 18 Mar 92*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Mar (TELAM)—Interior Minister Jose Luis Manzano has confirmed at National Border Police headquarters in the Centinela Building that the terrorist attack on the Israeli Embassy was perpetrated with a car bomb, which was found at 920 Arroyo Street.

Before meeting with Border Police Commander General Jorge Jose Suerez, Minister Manzano told journalists that the car used was a Ford Fairlane with approximately 100 kilos of explosives.

Manzano said that the explosive used was a mixture of "trinitrotoluene," to which were added solid elements to create a fragmentation bomb. Manzano explained that the bomb made a crater that was 3 meters by 2 meters and 60 centimeters deep.

In another part of the interview, Manzano said: "Officially, the number of people killed totals 10, while the number of injured people totals 235." He also confirmed the death of two Israeli citizens. He added that President Carlos Menem has ordered that their bodies be taken to Israel in the presidential plane.

Commenting on responsibility for the attack, Manzano said that it was the result of complex plotting in various parts of the world, such as Turkey, Israel, and Argentina. He pointed out that, as President Menem said, the attack was conducted by radical terrorists.

Manzano said that studies conducted by the Security Council make us "believe that, in view of the magnitude of the attack, it must have been planned abroad with the aid of local partners who provided logistical support."

#### Israeli Negotiator Target of Attack

*PY1803163292 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1531 GMT 18 Mar 92*

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 18 Mar (EFE)—Argentine Government sources said today that Victor Harel, a member of the Israeli delegation to the Madrid peace conference, was the target of the bloody terrorist attack on the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires.

The sources told the private news agency DYN that Harel was scheduled to visit the Israeli Embassy at 1500 local time (1800 GMT) to meet with Ambassador Yitzhaq Shefi and other Israeli diplomats.

Harel, however, accompanied by Matitiau Droblas, who is in charge of settlements in Arab territories occupied by Israel, left the Israeli Embassy shortly before the attack, which took place at 1447 local time (1747 GMT).

The Israeli peace negotiator is visiting Buenos Aires to lecture on peace negotiations in the Middle East. [passage omitted]

#### Islamic Jihad Issues Communique

*PY1803193292 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1903 GMT 18 Mar 92*

[Text] Beirut, 18 Mar (AFP-NA)—The Islamic Jihad announced on 18 March that it carried out the attack on the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires to avenge the death of Shaykh al-Musawi, the leader of the pro-Iranian Lebanese Hizballah. According to the latest report, the attack destroyed the Israeli diplomatic mission, killed 10 people, and wounded 252.

The clandestine organization's communique—typed in Arabic and delivered to a Western press agency in Beirut—has not been certified as authentic; however, its rhetoric is identical to that of previous Islamic Jihad releases. On previous occasions, the organization attached photographs of Western hostages whom it was holding to its messages, but they have now been released.

"We proudly announce that the operation ... is one of a series of ongoing blows against the criminal Israeli enemy in an open war, a war that will not end until Israel is erased from the face of the earth," the communique states.

The communique adds that the operation was called "The Martyr Child Husayn," after the five-year-old son of the shaykh, who died with his father.

"No one may feel safe as long as we are not safe and as long as our Muslim religion is threatened. We repeat that we will follow the aggressors wherever they are," the clandestine group said.

The Islamic Jihad is the best known of the clandestine groups linked to Iran that kidnapped Western hostages in Lebanon. This group surfaced for the first time in April 1983 when it claimed responsibility for the car-bomb attack on the U.S. Embassy in Beirut. That attack caused 63 deaths.

In Jerusalem, Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi blamed the "Tehran-Damascus axis" for the attack on the embassy in Buenos Aires. The Islamic Jihad feels that the attack on the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires "confirms that we continue to wage our jihad (Islam's holy war) against the imperialist forces allied with Israel to defend our true religion, our nation, our country, and the future of our children."

The communique adds: "The security that the United States, the global thief, and its criminal allies are trying to impose on Islamic and oppressed peoples is a myth that we reject because it serves the interests of the United States only and consecrates the Zionist usurper."

The clandestine group paid homage to the "mujahidin of the intifadah in Palestine" urging them to "step up their

struggle against the Jews," and "greets its brother mujahidin in Turkey who are waging a war against the Zionist enemy," inviting them to "continue their actions, which shall be blessed."

Three fundamentalist groups claimed responsibility for the car- bomb attack that killed an Israeli diplomat in Ankara on 7 March.

### 'PLO Has Rejected' Attack

*PY1903134492 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1211 GMT 19 Mar 92*

[All names as received]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Mar (NA)—Suhail Akel, representative of the Palestine Information Office in Argentina, has asserted that the Palestine community is very interested in "clarifying" the attack on the Israeli Embassy and seeing that Argentine courts "establish levels of responsibility."

Akel said that his community wants "to prevent such deeds from disturbing the Argentine Government's goodwill in seeking a fair solution to both parties," in the negotiations being held in Washington.

In comments published in the daily EL CRONISTA, he said that "it is a dangerous simplification to attribute the responsibility to Palestinians, as generalized [word indistinct] 'Jewish,' 'blacks,' 'Basques,' etc... [no closing quotation marks as received]

Akel explained that the PLO "has no links with the Hizballah," which claimed responsibility for the attack. He added that "he has not been informed on the authenticity of the communique" on the attack. Commenting on the identity of the alleged attacker, who according to Islamic Jihad killed himself in the attack, he said he has never heard of a person by the name, "or nickname," Abur Yaser.

He added, however, that he cannot be "certain" [passage indistinct] Palestine people, "few of whom operated outside the PLO structure."

"We have clearly rejected the attack because the PLO does not conduct or support violent actions outside the occupied territories," he said.

He said the intifadah is "different" because it is "a legitimate overall resistance response to Israeli occupation and repression."

He concluded by saying that the PLO has rejected the attack because "we believe it hinders the Washington negotiations and gives the Israeli rightist factions reasons to continue illegally establishing settlements in the occupied territories."

### MODIN's Rico Blames Menem

*PY1803174292 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1636 GMT 18 Mar 92*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Mar (NA)—Aldo Rico, leader of the Movement for Dignity and Independence, MODIN, today blamed the administration for the attack on the Israeli Embassy, saying that "because of President Menem we have become a battlefield for an alien war." He unhesitatingly stated that the explosion at the Israeli Embassy is a reaction "to the sending of Argentine troops to the Persian Gulf."

Rico added that the chief of state was being "imprudent and rash," not only by sending troops to the Gulf but also because of his charges against the former military officer's movement, involving it in this barbaric embassy affair.

### Embassy in Yugoslavia Denies Arms Sales

*PY1803182292 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1059 GMT 18 Mar 92*

[Text] Belgrade, 18 Mar (TELAM-EFE)—In a communique released by the Argentine Embassy in Belgrade yesterday, Argentina categorically denies the participation of Argentine firms in the sale of arms to the former Yugoslav Republics of Slovenia and Croatia.

According to a report by the Yugoslav Federal Assembly Interior and Defense Policies Committees published on 13 March, Slovenia and Croatia imported arms from eight countries, including Argentina. On 25 September 1991, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution No. 713 which established an arms sales embargo to all parties involved in the Yugoslav conflict.

The Federal Army, which has its own arms and production factories, denies having imported arms and accuses the two independent republics of doing so clandestinely.

"Argentina has implemented UN Security Council Resolution No. 713 (1991) through Decree 217-92 of 28 January 1992, which established an arms sales embargo to Yugoslavia," the communique says. Argentina is one of 49 countries that recognized the independence of Slovenia and Croatia, which was announced on 8 October 1991.

### Menem 'Emphatically' Denies Rift With Cavallo

*PY1803210292 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1543 GMT 18 Mar 92*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Mar (NA)—President Carlos Menem today asserted emphatically: "There is no possibility of a rift with Domingo Cavallo." He added that the controversy between Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo and Defense Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez "has been resolved completely."

Commenting on rumors that his relations with Cavallo were not ideal, Menem said: "There is only one response.

There is no such situation." He emphasized: "Let us make clear that there is no possibility of a rift between Cavallo and me."

Asked about the Gonzalez-Cavallo controversy, Menem said: "Because of my firmness, this has been resolved." Menem pointed out: "There have been rumors for more than two years that I would reshuffle the cabinet. Let me assure you that these rumors are groundless."

He added that "there will be no cabinet reshuffle" and repeated a previous statement: "I have a first-rate cabinet."

## Bolivia

### Military Sources Warn of 'Growing Unrest'

*PY1803193792 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1843 GMT 18 Mar 92*

[Text] La Paz, 18 Mar (EFE)—Military sources have assured EFE, just one day after Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora replaced eight of his ministers, that there are groups of discontented people within the Armed Forces who are organized and ready to act at any moment. EFE learned that the Interior Ministry has opened a "serious investigation" into the possible involvement of military officers, including some very high-ranking officers, and some opposition politicians.

During the past few days, a proliferation of communiques signed by anonymous military groups have been sent to the media, political parties, labor unions, and legislators denouncing government and Armed Forces "corruption." According to the Interior Ministry investigation, the most "virulent" military rebel group is based in the Navy.

Military sources who asked to remain anonymous have said that this growing unrest is mainly due to budgetary constraints that have imposed unexpected hardship on the military. The discontent generated by the economic situation compounds the conditions in which the Army participates in the fight against drug trafficking, generalized corruption, the splintering of political parties, and the "less than delicate" handling of privatization policies and administrative decentralization.

"There is discontent, and there is also a 'black hand' eager to encourage the social crisis and the destabilization of democracy," the sources warned. Sources close to the information service told EFE that there are three discontented military groups within the Armed Forces.

The pronouncements of the Navy "10 Star Commando" have been, until now, the most radical because they have even asked the president to resign, warning that "the security of the nation will always come before democracy, even before respect for the Constitution."

The "Bolivarian Movement" belongs to a military current known as Latin Americanist, "anti-imperialist," and highly suspicious of the alleged U.S. strategy for the Armed Forces of the continent and the consequences of implementing neo-liberal economic policies.

The "Red Hot" group recalls its 20th anniversary in one of its pamphlets. Even though its position is not very clear, according to the investigation, their propaganda was printed on the same printing press that publishes the newspaper of the Revolutionary Workers Party, which has Troskyist affiliation.

During a public ceremony, Venezuelan Ambassador to La Paz Gilberto Barradas recently warned that "a conspiracy is being prepared in Bolivia," possibly in reaction "to the negative aspects of the neo-liberal economic policies that are being implemented in Latin America" and which are being used as a pretext for the return of the military regimes.

Defense Minister Admiral Alberto Saenz Klinsky and Armed Forces Commander General Alejandro Camponovo reiterated today "the absolute calm that exists within" the armed institutions. Saenz Klinsky said that there are no groups, only "pamphlets released irresponsibly that contain anonymous items that are not very credible."

Today's issue of La Paz ULTIMA HORA carries an announcement by Saenz Klinsky that an investigation has been ordered to apply—if the case warrants it—"sanctions against those responsible; drastic sanctions to prevent this type of incidents."

### Teachers, Labor Sectors React to Salary Hike

*PY1803182892*

[Editorial Report] La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish on 18 March in its 1100 GMT newscast carries five and a half minutes of reports on reactions to salary increases recently decreed by the government.

The announcer first reports that the Bolivian Labor Federation, COB, has rejected the government decree on salary increases. He adds that the COB has scheduled a 19 March demonstration to reject the decree and a 25 March National Assembly session to discuss the issue. He adds that National Health Pension Fund workers began an indefinite, general strike today to protest the increases.

In another report, the announcer explains that La Paz urban education workers also began an indefinite general strike today to ratify their salary demands. He notes that the education minister has asserted that the government has made its last offer because, although "teachers want 23 percent, the government has no possibility of granting that."

In a report from Cochabamba, reporter Edwin Mallon Avalos says that a massive demonstration was staged yesterday by textile and construction workers to protest the official salary policy, and he notes that oil production workers and university students did not join the demonstration. He adds that several union leaders addressed the crowd during the demonstration, and a speech by Cochabamba COB Secretary General Ruben Cortez, who called for President Paz Zamora's resignation, had

the greatest impact. Mallon Avalos notes that the request was surprising because Cortez has always belonged to the ruling Movement of the Revolutionary Left.

In a report from Oruro, reporter Freddy Salazar Zelada says that, beginning today, all local public schools suspended classes to comply with the decision to hold an indefinite general strike to protest the low salary increases, and that union groups will hold constant demonstrations, which will be coordinated by the union council this morning.

In a final report from Riveralta, an unidentified reporter states that urban and rural teachers and health sector workers rejected the decree on salary increases. He adds that Eduardo Chavez, president of the Urban Teachers' Union, has said that "the increase did not meet teachers' expectations or needs," and that "it has been imposed by the IMF and other foreign organizations because most of the national resources are earmarked for payment of the foreign debt, an action that harms the Bolivian economy and people." The reporter concludes by saying that teachers in Riveralta will go on strike tomorrow.

### Teachers Issue Communique

*PY1803194892 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Mar 92*

[Text] The Bolivian Confederation of Urban Education Workers and the Bolivian National Confederation of Rural Education Teachers have released the following communique:

The Bolivian confederations of urban and rural teachers address national teachers and workers to report:

1. The two-party government has resorted to old oligarchic tricks and, in obsequious compliance with IMF and World Bank orders, has decreed an insulting salary increase of only 1.09 bolivianos per teaching day. This increase is insufficient to cover increases in the cost of living, inflation, fuel price hikes, and the 30 percent increase in the Value-Added Tax. The government has thus dealt a deadly blow to teachers' and workers' incomes.

2. In light of this deceit, education workers and the urban and rural teachers confederations—in defense of their right to life and to free education—have decided to decree a national general strike beginning at 0000 on 19 March. The strike will continue until the government satisfactorily meets the demands of Bolivian teachers.

3. The government is entirely responsible for the suspension of school activities because it does not, responsibly and favorably, meet the demands of the national teachers.

4. We urge urban and rural teachers to comply, in a disciplined manner, with the instructions of the national confederations.

Signed in La Paz on 18 March 1992 by teachers Javier Valdivieso and Jaime Bernal, heads of the national executive board, and teacher Ramiro Cuentas, relations secretary, on behalf of the national board of Bolivian Urban Education Workers, and by teacher Sergio Gallardo, head of the national executive board; teaching expert Juan Parra; and teacher Nicolas Cedene, permanent secretary, on behalf of the Bolivian Rural Teachers Confederation.

### New Finance Minister Discusses Policy Plans

*PY1803190392 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 Mar 92*

[Excerpt] One of the great challenges facing the new finance minister will be to continue to implement the present economic policy. New Finance Minister Jorge Quiroga thus accepted the challenge, adding that difficult decisions will have to be made to face current problems.

[Begin Quiroga recording] The huge challenge, particularly at the Finance Ministry, as my predecessor David Blanco knows so well, is to do what is necessary to implement our present economic policy. There are a lot of principles supporting it, but I will not elaborate on them now. For me, the most important issues are a framework for stability, freedom of prices, and capital flow. We have these in Bolivia today, thanks to the work of many people, including that of my predecessor.

We seek to efficiently balance revenues and expenditures, making the public sector responsible for itself and creating opportunities for the private sector to produce. It is not enough to balance revenues and expenditures. It is also necessary to introduce reforms, seeking greater efficiency in public investments and expenditures. It is part of a permanent challenge that I accept, and I will work with all eagerness because I firmly believe in it. It is an honor to do so. [end recording] [passage omitted]

### IMF Officials Express 'Satisfaction' on Economy

*PY1803212092 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 18 Mar 92*

[Text] After an evaluation of the economic situation in the country, and after a number of meetings with government and congressional representatives, IMF representatives have expressed satisfaction with the results achieved in 1991 by the administration.

A meeting was first held with representatives of the National Congress, following a meeting with President Jaime Paz Zamora, said Planning Minister Samuel Doria Medina, when assessing the ideas launched during these meetings.

[Begin recording] [Doria Medina] The IMF representatives evaluated the situation in 1991 and observed with satisfaction that the fruits of stability and the country's economic growth are beginning to emerge.

[Unidentified reporter] And what about the privatization issue?

[Doria Medina] Well, this is a concern—not only for me and the entire executive branch—for all organizations financing development in our country, seeking to solve the problem of the privatization law at the Supreme Court of Justice. Ninety days have passed, and no solution has been achieved on this matter. [end recording]

## Brazil

### Collor Holds Talks With Norway's Brundtland

*PY1803144292 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 17 Mar 92*

[Excerpts] The Norwegian Government wants to contribute to financing Brazilian environmental projects and help the country achieve sustained development. Prime Minister Gro Brundtland, who is paying an official visit to Brazil, made this proposal to President Collor. In a working meeting at Planalto Palace, the prime minister also told President Collor that her country is willing to contribute financially to Brazilian programs aimed at assisting street children and thus contribute to reducing violence.

According to Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek, if Brazil wants to receive financial assistance, it will have to create a special fund for this with UNICEF's assistance. On her second day in Brazil, the Norwegian prime minister will visit Juscelino Kubitschek's memorial in Brasilia and grant a news conference at Itamaraty Palace. [passage omitted] At 1500, she will leave for Manaus and then travel to Venezuela.

On 16 March, President Collor hosted a dinner honoring Prime Minister Brundtland. In his welcoming speech, the president emphasized the importance of the work she has been performing in favor of the environment and sustained development. Collor also commented on current social imbalances and pointed out to the prime minister that we cannot have an environmentally healthy world unless we make it socially fairer.

### Hungarian Foreign Minister Arrives in Sao Paulo

*LD1903120492 Budapest MTI in English 0853 GMT 19 Mar 92*

[Text] Sao Paulo, March 19 (MTI)—Hungarian Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky arrived in Brazil on an official visit Wednesday and held talks with Governor Luiz Antonio Fleury Filho of Sao Paulo state. The minister recalled that Hungary had advanced towards an open market economy over the past two years. He added that the time was ripe for making genuine use of opportunities in Hungarian-Brazilian relations. The state of Sao Paulo may play a very important role in this effort, he said. Jeszenszky called the attention of his negotiating partner to the 1996 Budapest World Expo. Governor Fleury spoke in appreciative terms about the activity of Sao Paulo's Hungarian community, the largest one in Brazil. Altogether, 60,000 to 80,000 Hungarians are living in the country. The governor emphasized the common interests of Hungary and Sao Paulo state and the similar features of their situation. On the basis of the experience gained so far, the governor said he saw a good chance of strengthening cooperation. On Wednesday, Jeszenszky met senior representatives of Hungarian societies in Sao Paulo and local businessmen of Hungarian origin.

### Government Establishes Ceiling on Debt Service

*PY1803215392 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 17 Mar 92 p 23*

[Text] Brasilia—Figures announced by the Central Bank show that the public administration and private companies paid international creditors a total of $11.378 billion on their foreign debt account last year. Of this total, $4.946 billion were interest payments and $6.432 billion were payments on the principal. The government alone paid creditor banks more than $5 billion in principal and interest. Negotiations with creditor banks will resume today after an interruption of nearly a month.

Brazil's official negotiator, Pedro Malan, is responsible for convincing the banks that Brazil can only pay a total of $6.9 billion during this and next year. The government has determined that the public administration can pay $11 billion to creditor banks and the Paris Club during this period. Brazil is already committed to pay $4.1 billion to the Paris Club, so it wants to pay the remaining $6.9 billion to private institutions.

Malan admits that this ceiling frustrates international bankers who want the largest possible payment in the shortest possible term. The Brazilian offer would mean a reduction in annual disbursements during 1992 and 1993, compared with 1991, from $5 billion to nearly $3.5 billion. Malan thinks that Brazil cannot commit itself to pay more because it must be realistic.

Malan made clear that the guidelines established by Economy Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira have not been changed. He said: We do not want just any agreement at any price. We want agreement as soon as possible but within conditions that the country can fulfill.

The ceiling established by the government includes a $2 billion payment on the rescheduling agreement on delinquent interest that was agreed upon during the first stage of the debt negotiation. This also includes disbursements to cover 30 percent of the interest on public administration debt that will fall due this year, which the government agreed to pay as of last year to help negotiations with the banks' committee.

The funds were earmarked for private banks, nonfinancial institutions, Paris Club countries, and international financial organizations like the IMF, the World Bank, and the IDB [Inter-American Development Bank]. Last year's payments were 26.8 percent higher than the total for 1990, which reached $8.973 billion—$5.441 billion on the principal and $3.532 billion on interest.

The amount paid by Brazil during 1990 was the smallest during the past few years because at that time Brazil was implementing a moratorium.

*** Petrobras Exploration Investment Decline Viewed**

*92SM0290A Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 10 Feb 92 (Economic Section) p 3*

[Article by Alberto Tamer]

[Text] The world petroleum economy underwent a major change in the decade of the 1980's, while Brazil stood still and devoted an ever smaller proportion of its petroleum investments to exploration, with the result that the nation has been forced to reconsider the concept of monopoly and the role of Petrobras. The theory that foreign companies covet Brazilian oil—a theory advanced 38 years ago to justify creation of the monopoly—has been destroyed by the numbers. The truth is that Brazil's hydrocarbons reserves have always been insignificant in the world context. Brazil today possesses—in proven reserves—approximately 2.9 billion barrels of oil and 115 billion cubic meters of gas. This represents only 0.2 percent of the world's reserves of oil, which total 1.33 trillion barrels.

Between 1987 and 1990, the world reserves of oil and gas increased by 34 percent: 44 percent for oil and 24 percent for gas. In Brazil these reserves remained virtually stationary, because of a lack of investment. The proven reserves of hydrocarbons in the world during these three years increased by the equivalent of 127 times the total of Brazil's current reserves.

These numbers are a source of concern, because over the years Brazilian consumption has continued to increase. It is currently 1 million barrels per day and is forecast to reach 1.5 million barrels per day in 1995. Despite the fact that the rate of consumption has increased, Brazil continues to import half of the oil it needs.

**Cause of the Lag**

What are the reasons for this dangerous lag? There are two theories: either Brazil has little oil and it is in areas difficult of access—so that great effort and a large investment would be required to discover it—or the nation does in fact possess vast oil resources and Petrobras for 38 years has been incapable of discovering it. In either case, the conclusion reached is that it is essential to end the monopoly and attract foreign resources to Brazil for oil exploration.

The principal cause of this situation has already been established: insufficient investment, because Petrobras does not itself have the funds and is not attempting to form partnerships abroad. Petrobras's total investments—calculated in terms of current values—declined from $4 billion in 1972 to less than $2 billion in 1990. Even more disturbing is the fact that Petrobras's investment in exploration declined from $1.3 billion in 1982 to $688 million in 1990, in current values.

Petrobras's balance sheet—published last Friday—confirms that there has been a further reduction in overall investment by enterprises because of insufficient funds. Unfortunately, indirect investment in exploration by enterprises that entered into risk contracts declined sharply from $452 million in 1982 to only $2 million last year.

It can be said that in terms of inflation-adjusted dollars, the nation as a whole invested in oil exploration during 1991 only one-third of the amount invested in 1982. This is reflected in the number of wells drilled by Petrobras, which declined from 1,118 in 1982 to 407 in 1990. The costs of drilling increased from $392 per meter in 1992 to $731 in 1991, in the case of drilling on land, and from $1,645 per meter drilled in 1982 to $2,712 in 1991, in the case of maritime drilling.

These figures accordingly indicate that there was less investment and greater cost involved in oil exploration. This explains the drastic reduction in the results and the negligible increase in Brazil's petroleum reserves by comparison with the figures for the world. Unfortunately, there are no easy solutions ahead. To increase petroleum production from the present 647,000 barrels per day to 1.1 million in 1995 and 1.5 million by the end of the century, Petrobras will need to invest $3.5 billion per year until the year 2000.

It is obvious that we do not have resources of our own to accomplish this. Neither Petrobras—nor the nation—has the available funds, because there are other priorities such as electricity and telecommunications. The conclusion to be reached is that only with the aid of foreign funds will it be possible to achieve these production goals.

**A Changed Market**

These changes in the research, exploration, and production of petroleum have been accompanied by another very important change that has occurred in the marketing of petroleum. Until the beginning of the decade of the 1970's the principal source of supply was the large multinational corporations, which had their own sources of supply and refining. The spot—or free—market represented at that time only 5 percent of all oil marketed in the world. The remaining 95 percent was marketed by the multinational corporations, which set prices and volumes.

All this has changed drastically. Today, trade based directly or indirectly on the free market represents 80 to 85 percent of all international oil transactions, thereby reducing the control exercised by the multinationals. World oil transactions have become a complex business, so that a shipment of oil may be bought and sold more than 30 times before arriving at its ultimate destination. When the large multinational corporations began to operate to a great extent in the spot market, they simultaneously also changed the system of refining and marketing petroleum products. Today, these corporations depend on purchases by third parties for from 30 to 40 percent of their total sales. These statistics show that the world petroleum economy has changed. There are more

than 1 trillion barrels in the world reserves. Brazil, however, has remained in the past, shutting itself up within its own borders. For this reason, what you now have are insignificant reserves that represent only 0.2 percent of the world's reserves—a fact that dooms the monopoly and destroys the theory that others covet Brazil's petroleum.

### * Lutzenberger Views Aid Prospects, Devastation

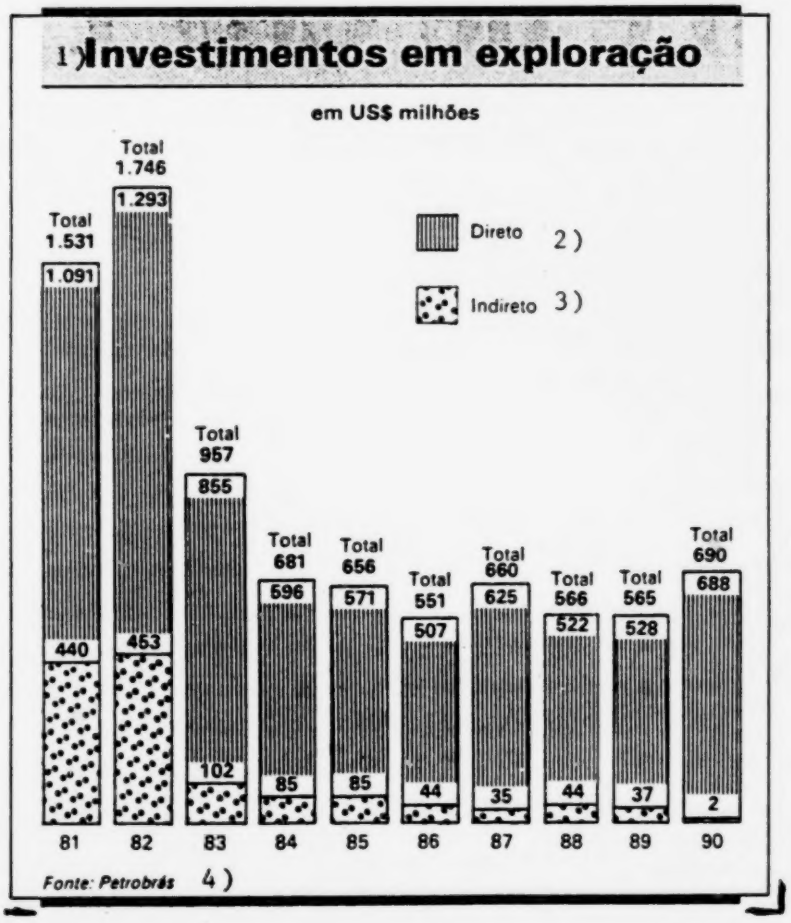
*92WN0328X Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 17 Feb 92 p 9*

[Interview with Secretary of Environment Jose Lutzenberger by AGENCIA ESTADO reporter Elza Pires; place and date not given: "Secretary Expects Aid From First World"—first two paragraphs are O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO introduction]

[Text] Environment Secretary Jose Lutzenberger is convinced that the rich countries are going to help the poor countries pay for a sustainable development program, because we have only one planet and it is threatened. "We are all on board the same ship," he tells AGENCIA ESTADO reporter Elza Pires. He insists that an evolution has already taken place in the way environmental problems are dealt with both in Brazil and in the rest of the world.

After more than two years as head of the Secretariat of Environment, Lutzenberger acknowledges that some progress has been made in Brazilian environmental policy but believes it is too soon to celebrate. Although he is convinced that the deforestation has lessened, he continues to advocate a moratorium on land clearing as a way to halt the devastation of the forests.

[Pires] After the Manaus conference, at which a common position was formally adopted by the eight countries of the Amazon Pact, how do you view the question of international cooperation and the sovereignty of the countries that have tropical forests?




Key: 1) Investments in Exploration (in millions of U.S. dollars) 2) Direct 3) Indirect 4) Source: Petrobras

[Lutzenberger] We are all on board the same ship, the same planet. It is entirely in the interest of the rich countries to help us. As for those who believe that modern types of aid constitute an attack on our sovereignty, it is because they do not want to do certain things. The Manaus agreement represents evolution. Mankind has come to understand that we cannot continue down the road of the "industrial society"—the road of unbridled consumption.

[Pires] What policies should Brazil follow in order to comply with the guidelines of the Manaus Charter?

[Lutzenberger] If there is a genuine intent to preserve the Amazon Region, we must immediately embark on a policy that is quite different from the one that is still being pursued. I have been saying this from the very first days of this administration, but it is difficult for many people to accept. Certain organs of government, such as the Ministry of Agriculture, are not acting in accordance with any paradigm, any particular type of thinking. As a result, they do not have the capability to do these things. We have in the Amazon today—as seen by satellite—a total of 400,000 square km that have already been deforested. In the state of Rondonia the deforestation is already horrible, while in Roraima it is just beginning; and the state of Para has been violently eroded away. Our deforested area is as large as Spain. People cut and slash, abandon the cutover area, and continue to cut and slash. The big cattle ranches are cutting down between 10,000 and 20,000 hectares and planting pasture.

[De Carvalho] What do you think might be done?

[Lutzenberger] On these 400,000 square km we need to teach small farmers crop-growing techniques that are sustainable and regenerative. Through the Gaia Foundation—an institution that some persist in calling a "gigantic international conspiracy"—I personally am carrying out an interesting program in southern Para State, where we are teaching 50 or 60 families to rotate crops and interplant them with legumes. We teach them how to obtain certain products from the forests without destroying the forests, and we are finding a market for these products in Europe. The program is proving to be a great success, but it is being carried out by a private foundation and by me personally, using my own money and small donations we receive from Europe. This type of thing ought to be done by government organs such as EMATER [Technical Assistance and Rural Extension Enterprise]. The cattle ranches in the Amazon are the most stupid and imbecilic thing imaginable. We must begin to grow perennial crops on those ranches. We have to restore those forests.

[Pires] How can the devastation be controlled?

[Lutzenberger] In my view, we would not need to cut down so much as another single square km of forest. We shall work on the surface of the areas that have been cut down. Only in this way will we be able to preserve the remaining forest. There should be a moratorium for a number of years to enable us to save what remains. There is one thing we must control, however, and that is the lumber dealers. That is the biggest scandal of all. I found out that Ibama [Brazilian Institute for Environmental Affairs and Renewable Resources] itself, with respect to this lumber question, had been operating until now as if it were nothing but an agency of the lumber dealers. The forest permits that were issued and the so-called forest-management plans—which are pure humbug—were being used only for exploitation of the timber.

[Pires] Are there other ways to control the devastation other than by carrying out inspections?

[Lutzenberger] We must demarcate the Indian areas and protect the native populations. In the case of the gold miners and the extractive reserve, demarcation will not suffice. We have to find a market for them.

[Pires] But hasn't the devastation been lessening in the past several years?

[Lutzenberger] In 1987 an area the size of Portugal was devastated: approximately 90,000 square km. In 1990 the figure dropped to 14,000 square km—a decrease of 80 percent. The data for last year will be released within the next few days. No one knows for sure yet, but I expect that the figure will be around 8,000 to 9,000 square km.

## * Consensus Reached at Canela Meeting Lauded

*92WN0328Y Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 21 Feb 92 p 4*

[Editorial: "Eco-92, Brazilian Responsibilities"]

[Text] The preparatory work for Eco-92—the UN Conference on the Environment and Development—deserves more and better attention from Brazilian government officials involved with the conference, which will be held next June in Rio de Janeiro.

There are a variety of clear indications that a myriad of basic measures—ranging from the housing of the delegates to the logistic infrastructure in support of the work of the conference—are being put off until the last minute. Important details concerning the participants in certain meetings, the organization of documents, and the preparation of reports also require closer attention.

It is already known that the participation of heads of state will not be as meaningful as had been expected, for there will be important absences including those of the presidents of the United States and France, which have been virtually confirmed.

Inasmuch as some time ago the political and administrative activities of the governments of the state of Rio de Janeiro and the municipality of Rio ceased to have any direct connection with Eco-92 in order to adopt their own course and acquire their own influence (not always with a view to providing additional support for this important event), what we are left with today is the

imperative necessity of doing well (and speedily) everything that remains to be done.

This is the exclusive responsibility of the Brazilian organizers. To strengthen their resolve, they should turn to the good examples of coordination and qualification for cooperative labor that have recently been set by Brazilian diplomats.

In a specific instance that relates to the environment, namely the recently completed Declaration of Canela (which the five countries of the Southern Cone will take to Eco-92 as their joint position), the Brazilian delegation demonstrated the flexibility and the sense of accommodation that are essential when partners with common goals sit down at the table.

Brazil, as is known, had wanted a thesis dear to the current administration—namely, the thesis that there is an intrinsic linkage between the environmental question and the question of sovereignty with respect to debt—to receive prominent mention in the final declaration. That will not occur, however. The matter will be mentioned, but only in a passing reference.

The Argentine position—which also had the support of Uruguay, Paraguay, and Chile—accordingly prevailed. The Argentine position was that it is more important to create a portfolio of actions oriented toward the future—toward conservation and preservation of the environment—rather than attempt to make an accounting of the damage caused to nature, in the past, by the developed nations.

This is a schematic way of treating the question, but what is important in the present case is the unequivocal demonstration that the nations involved felt themselves capable of obtaining a consensus; worked to obtain it; and formed a cohesive front to present it in a larger forum.

Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay—the founders of Mercosur [Common Market of the South]—have given proof on other occasions that the proverbial Latin American individualism can be overcome when there is a genuine political desire (and objective, immediate, and concrete reasons) to see it replaced by the kind of joint effort that has, for example, brought so many benefits to the members of the European Economic Community.

The Brazilian preparations for our participation in the Declaration of Canela were comprehensive and meticulous. The Brazilian proposal contained no fewer than 55 points, a number of which played a prominent role in the drafting of the joint declaration. Others, as we have seen, were replaced by what the consensus deemed to be more pertinent.

What is important now is that the example of Canela provide inspiration for results on broader fronts, beginning with the organization of Brazil's participation in Eco-92.

## Chile

### UDI Details Political Espionage Charges

*PY1903020492 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 Mar 92*

[Text] The Independent Democratic Union, UDI, will submit a request for the preventive protection of civil rights in order to confiscate all the political and personal information available on the UDI and their leaders from the files of the Investigative Police.

The UDI also requested the dismissal of Investigative Police Director General Horacio Toro, retired, who is currently in Canada. The UDI leaders will also meet with Interior Minister Enrique Krauss at 1600 today in La Moneda Palace to deliver the documents proving the accusations of the existence of a political police in Chile. The UDI leaders gave a news conference on the orders given by the Investigative Police.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified UDI official] Now that the existence in Chile of a political police, which has been operating since 1991, has been proven, the UDI has decided to submit in the next few hours a request for protection in order to confiscate all the political and personal information available about our party and all their leaders. [end recording]

Pablo Longeira and Andres Chadwick also released a second document named the information search plan, which is divided into various areas and was drawn by the Investigative Police high leadership under the name political information. In one area, orders are given for espionage on all political parties such as the Communist Party, MIDA [Allendist Leftist Democratic Movement], Socialist Party, Christian Democratic Party, Party for Democracy, National Renewal, and UDI. There is a special paragraph on the UDI calling for information on its financing sources and its relations with the Armed Forces. There is also a request for the investigation of the private lives of union leaders, especially those involved in judicial scandals.

The UDI document also says that there are plans to reopen a department to investigate the religious activities of the popular church, including such names as Father Ronaldo Munoz, and Father (Hicks). There is also a request to get information on the thoughts of Bishops Tomas Gonzalez, Carlos Gonzalez, Bernandino Pinera, and (Vial), who according to the document are generally against the official line of the Bishops Conference. According to the UDI document there is also a plan to carry out espionage on the activities of Appellate Court judges appointed by the previous regime. There is also an order for the investigation of groups linked to the large economic consortiums of the past, including such names as Carlos Caceres, Roberto Kelly, Cesar Mendoza, Miguel Angel Poduje, Jose Pinera, Cristian Larroulet, Lucia Pinochet Iriart, and (Julio Ponce Lerut). There is also an order for the investigation of the activities of Manuel Feliu, Fernando Aguero, and other

members of the Sofofa [Industrial Development Association], especially those who carry out activities linked to military organizations, National Renewal, and UDI.

The UDI document also says that reportedly there is a special area for the military, and that instructions are given for the investigation of the activities of high-ranking military officers. The document also includes instructions for burning the plan before 30 April. The instructions note that the investigation will be carried out in the first four months of this year.

In conclusion, Andres Chadwick says that the UDI does not accept the explanations given by the Investigative Police that they are gathering information to dismantle terrorist organizations because none of the people mentioned in the report have carried out terrorist activities. The UDI then posed the following question to the government: Who ordered the creation of this political police? Or was it created on the single initiative of Investigative Police Director General Horacio Toro, retired? The UDI believes that in either case this is very serious.

### Krauss Answers Report

*PY1803192792 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 Mar 92*

[Text] Interior Minister Enrique Krauss has said that the government does not share or approve of the surveillance of legal activities which, according to UDI [Independent Democratic Union] leaders, is allegedly being conducted by the Investigative Police.

The interior minister said that the UDI leaders charge that the Investigative Police have been instructed to organize intelligence operations to follow legal operations. The objective is to advance in the struggle against terrorism and common crime.

[Begin Krauss recording] These instructions have not been made known to, let alone approved by, government officials. The government does not share or approve of the idea of surveillance of legal activities.

Third [as heard]: The Interior Ministry has ordered the Investigative Police to report fully on all activities carried out.

It must be taken into account that the Investigative Police director is on duty abroad. He has been asked to return as soon as possible. [end recording]

The communique read by Minister Krauss also indicates that the public can rest assured that the activities carried out by the Investigative Police will conform to the principles of a democratic system, which is marked by respect for the state of law and citizens' rights.

The minister said the government does not accept some procedures by the police that, unfortunately, were practiced in our country for a long time. The activities include the monitoring of the private lives and legal activities of citizens.

Minister Krauss lamented the fact that this report has been disseminated without previously advising the political and institutional authorities.

[Begin Krauss recording] These congressmen had the appropriate channels available to pass on this information without resorting to public reportage because, as they know, they enjoy the government's permanent willingness to discuss any situation that they want investigated or changed. [end recording]

The communique concludes that public security cannot be handled in the light manner reflected in this attitude and that, therefore, these congressmen will be asked to supply immediately all the background information to support their remarks.

Investigative Police Director General Horacio Toro, retired, is currently paying an official visit to Canada at the invitation of the Canadian police.

### RN Willing To Study Reforms After Elections

*PY1803202992 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Mar 92*

[Text] The National Renewal [RN] political commission has said that if the constitutional reforms proposed by the government are presented after the municipal elections it will be willing to study them.

Carlos Reymond, RN vice president and chairman of the constitutional studies commission, has said that the RN will not accept any pressure or any effort to get them to abandon their existing commitments. He said:

[Begin recording] If the government and those who support it propose constitutional reforms to Congress during the municipal campaign, seeking to deprive its contents of municipal interest, we will flatly reject it.

If these reforms are proposed after the municipal elections, the RN will freely discuss their suitability. [end recording]

Reymond said the RN does not want to be viewed as narrow-minded; but, bearing in mind the efficiency of the reformed 1980 Constitution, the RN considers it inappropriate to change the institutional system at this time.

In conclusion, the political commission expressed its unanimous satisfaction with the convention held recently and congratulated all the speakers who participated in the event, especially Colombian Andres Pastrana.

### Aylwin Will Not Grant Asylum to Honecker

*AU1903111192 Hamburg DIE WELT in German 19 Mar 92 p 5*

[Report by Werner Thomas: "Honecker Sent the Furniture in Advance"]

[Text] Santiago—It is hardly conceivable that former GDR leader Honecker will be able to spend the rest of

his life quietly in Chile. "Mr. Honecker will not come to Chile without the consent of the government," President Patricio Aylwin told DIE WELT. He will keep his word, he stressed.

However, the Chilean head of state declined to answer a key question: Will the former GDR dictator return to Germany with Aylwin's consent? This would lead to a quick solution of the Honecker affair, which caused a greater stir in Chile than anywhere else and which puts the government under increasing pressure.

Patricio Aylwin has not changed: The 75 year old politician is friendly and smiles obligingly during the interview at the Moneda Palace. He shows no sign of frustration or exhaustion. He radiates optimism. "A solution that will be satisfactory for all sides" is imminent. When? "Soon." His special envoy James Holger spoke of a "few weeks." Finding a satisfactory solution for all sides is still problematic. "Negotiations are under way. For this reason, I do not want to elaborate." "Mr. Honecker will not be granted asylum," he repeated. Honecker is enjoying "temporary hospitality." It was not just for humanitarian considerations—age or poor health, for example—that Erich Honecker and his wife Margot were allowed to seek refuge at the Chilean Embassy in Moscow on 11 December 1991; the "special conditions that prevailed at the time" played a role as well. The Soviet Union had just collapsed, and the GDR no longer existed. Aylwin rejected speculation that Chile is helping Honecker. "We do not represent Erich Honecker's interests."

Aylwin did not mention the "Almeyda factor." Clodomiro Almeyda, a former foreign minister and current chairman of the Socialist Party, who is now Chile's ambassador to Moscow, has friendly relations with Erich and Margot Honecker. Their furniture was at the spacious embassy building, a former school, for months. Almeyda published a medical certificate stating that his guest suffered from terminal cancer, which was a wrong diagnosis. Despite this, "Don Cloro" will be allowed to return to Moscow. He will arrive next week or the week after.

Aylwin admitted that there was "disagreement" within the coalition, the center-left government. His friend Gabriel Valdes of the Christian Democratic Party, the president of the Senate, has publicly criticized Almeyda's "unprofessional behavior" and warned against possible damage to the relationship with Germany. The Socialists for their part threatened to break up the coalition if Almeyda should be removed from office. As a matter of fact, Almeyda is still in his position.

"The existence of the coalition is not in danger," Aylwin stressed. "Individual aspects" caused differences of opinion. However, there are no "basic differences." The Honecker affair will not burden the "traditionally good relations" with Germany.

Diplomatic circles in Santiago are more skeptical. They believe that the situation is very delicate. The longer the affair lasts, the more permanent the damage might be. The president told foreign visitors that his special envoy, Holger, has again requested Honecker (apparently without success) to leave the embassy building voluntarily. The request will sooner or later be followed by a demand.

But when? Not before June? Important elections are scheduled for June—the first local elections since the beginning of the 1970s. The conservative opposition is also in agreement with the government's delaying tactics—for completely different reasons. The Honecker affair is seriously damaging Chile's reputation, a representative of the National Renovation Party stated. "This would give us ammunition for the election campaign."

## Colombia

### Foreign Minister Issues Declaration on Gulf

*PA1803204292 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 13 Mar 92 p 6A*

["Text" of declaration issued by Foreign Affairs Minister Nohemi Sanin Posada in Santa Fe de Bogota on 11 March]

[Text] As a result of the statements made by Dr. Humberto Calderon Berti, Venezuelan foreign relations minister, the government wants to state that such statements are inconsistent, as they ignore our irrefutable rights in the Gulf, and the negotiations that have taken place, which confirm our rights.

Colombia reiterates its rights over marine and submarine areas that belong to it in proportion to the coasts of the country on the Gulf of Venezuela. Certainly, a larger portion corresponds to Venezuela because of its geographical predominance in the area; but Colombia has clear and unquestionable rights in accordance with international law. This has been historically recognized. The issue here is not whether Colombia has any rights, but the extent of the areas that correspond to each country.

In fact, the direct negotiations maintained historically under different administrations and the existing negotiations have been based on the mutual recognition of the rights of both states, in accordance with international law. The direct negotiations have received the approval and support of the largest political groups in both nations.

The government reaffirms the historical and juridical validity of its rights over the marine and submarine areas of the Gulf and it hopes the delimitation process culminates successfully through direct negotiations, if at all possible, or any other peaceful means established by international law and the existing treaties between the two countries.

The government will convene the Foreign Relations Advisory Committee in the next few days to analyze carefully the latest developments.

The Colombian Government reiterates once more its willingness to advance in the integration process, which has opened many opportunities to our people, and to promote commercial exchange, binational enterprises, economic development, and social well-being.

Many significant accomplishments have already been made and the advancement that will be obtained if both countries continue to work toward integration will be even more important. It is important to defend the climate of cooperation and friendship that has prevailed between the two countries to strengthen bilateral ties and resolve the pending differences.

### Government, CNGSB To Discuss Specific Issues

*PA1803225992 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 14 Mar 92 p 6A*

[Joint communique issued by the negotiating commissions of the Colombian Government and Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board on 13 March in Tlaxcala, Mexico]

[Text] The negotiating commissions of the Colombian Government and the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNGSB] announce that:

For the purpose of intensifying the dialogue and advancing the search for peace in Colombia, they have agreed to discuss aspects of the established agenda involving national issues in the economic, social, and political areas. For this they have extended joint invitations to individuals representing different national sectors, as well as state officials and experts on each of the subjects. This will not affect initiatives developed in Colombia by civic, political, social, and cultural organizations to study these issues.

The government and CNGSB have agreed on the importance of the cease-fire and the cessation of hostilities. They will develop joint efforts to generate gradualy conditions that may lead to an agreement; to this end, they will approach the subject through its numerous component elements.

To initiate the debate we have agreed to conduct work sessions on the following issues: economic opening and social effects, administrative corruption, human rights, paramilitarism, aspects of the confrontation that impact the civilian population (kidnappings, forced disappearances, and arbitrary arrests), state, democracy, new constitution, and political system.

The negotiating commissions: for the national government, Horacio Serpa Uribe and Hector Riveros Serrato; for the CNGSB, Alfonso Cano and Ivan Marquez.

## Paraguay

### 'Evidence' of Active Church Occupation of Land

*PY1803210592 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 16 Mar 92 p 9*

[Text] Justice Minister Hugo Estigarribia yesterday reiterated that the government has evidence that church members have actively participated in the occupation of land. Interior Minister Orlando Machuca Vargas last week addressed a note to Monsignor Jorge Livieres Banks, head of the Paraguayan Bishops Conference (CEP), reporting the participation of priests and nuns in land seizures in the department of Misiones. President Andres Rodriguez said in Buenos Aires on 13 March that 10 priests and 30 nuns participated in the occupation. He added that the government is concerned about this because it can deteriorate relations with the church.

The bishop of Misiones on 14 March denied the remarks by Rodriguez. Father Domiciano Ramirez said that "government-church relations have already deteriorated because the painful situation of these landless peasants has not been taken into account."

Returning from Buenos Aires yesterday, President Rodriguez was consulted about the matter. He said that the interior minister should provide the answers, because he (Rodriguez) had acted on the basis of information provided by Machuca Vargas. The interior minister refused to talk about it and asked Justice Minister Estigarribia to outline the position of the government.

Estigarribia said: "The interior minister has more details, but we have official evidence of the active participation of church members, who encouraged the occupation of privately owned land. This is what the interior minister has reported to the church so that appropriate measures can be taken to prevent these people from engaging in something like this again."

Estigarribia added that the government understands that the church should care for the needy, including the landless people, but "if the church encourages the occupation of privately owned land—which is a totally illegal way of acquiring ownership—then we are unable to share the position of some people within the church. Father Domiciano Ramirez has been specifically identified. Apparently, he and other priests and nuns were actively involved in this matter."

"The government is concerned because if the church, the mother of all Paraguayans, encourages violence to benefit some Paraguayans at the expense of other Paraguayans, well, then there is something wrong," he emphasized.

Asked whether the government has evidence of the involvement of church members in the occupations in Misiones, Estigarribia replied: "That is what I read in the newspapers and in a note that the interior minister sent to the CEP

president. I do not think that the Interior Ministry would release such a serious note without evidence."

Asked to say who is in the right, Estigarribia replied: "Everyone has their own opinion, their own way of thinking, and their own way of doing things. This has nothing to do with the church. Relations between the church and the state are normal, there is no reason for relations not to be cordial. You know that the separation of the state and the church has been proposed. This disagreement between the church and the government is not a catastrophe but simply a concern that, just as priests become involved, people from other ideologies or other situations might also become involved, and we will still question the situation."

When told that Father Domiciano Ramirez said that church-state relations have deteriorated because the government has not met the demands of the poor, Estigarribia replied: "Their demands are taken into account. If they think like that, perhaps they are the ones who deteriorated the relations." He concluded by saying: "We should no longer make an issue of the relations between the church and the state. We operate in different areas, they work in the spiritual world and we operate in the material world. Consequently, each one should be in his own place. We are concerned about church problems, but we do not meddle in their affairs."

### Accusations Denied

*PY1803222992 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 16 Mar 92 p 13*

[Excerpt] In a response sent to Interior Minister Orlando Machuca Vargas, the Paraguayan bishops deny all accusations regarding the participation of church people in the occupation of land. Justice Minister Hugo Estigarribia has stated that the current confrontation between the church and the government cannot be taken as "a catastrophe."

Concepcion Bishop Anibal Maricevich states in the response to the interior minister that the Paraguayan Bishops Conference (CEP) categorically denies the entire government accusation, especially the point that priests and nuns have encouraged peasants to invade private land in Misiones.

The church, as the mother organization, cannot just stand by in the face of the dramatic situation of 800 families who do not have anywhere to live. It cannot abandon its children. It accompanies them not to instigate but to rationalize, as much as possible, the action of the peasants who are led by their neighborhood committees.

The bishop adds that Interior Minister Machuca Vargas' note, although very diplomatic, includes some statements that are completely false and baseless, especially when it states that several priests and nuns replaced their habits with street clothes to join the peasants, thus disguising their true identities.

"I think this is a senseless accusation because everyone knows that although several orders have stopped using habits they must always carry the insignia of their order. Moreover, the government has accused these church people of being liars, and this is very serious," he says.

The bishop adds that the government statements, both from the Interior and the Justice and Labor Ministries, are one-sided because they stem exclusively from the Misiones Departmental Government, and are absolutely false.

"The church wants to explain some obscure and confusing points because it wants to be very sincere, to reaffirm that it will always be with its poorest children, but not trying to encourage them as charged," Maricevich states. [passage omitted]

## Uruguay

### Lacalle, Gros Espiell Meet With Jeszenszky

*LD1803144192 Budapest MTI in English 1252 GMT 18 Mar 92*

[Text] Montevideo, March 18 (MTI)—Relations between Hungary and Uruguay, mainly the expansion of economic cooperation, were discussed yesterday by Uruguayan President Luis Alberto Lacalle Herrera and Hungarian Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky.

The same topics figured on the agenda of Jeszenszky's talks with his counterpart Hector Gros Espiell. Espiell said he felt the time had come to resume the traditional line of bilateral economic cooperation. In agreement with his colleague, Jeszenszky urged to promote an enhanced utilization of possiblities inherent in good relationships.

If transacted, certain business deals under preparation may considerably push up two-way sales figures. There is a mutual readiness to draw relations closer in the foreign political sphere, primarily in international organizations, the negotiating partners stated.

Jeszenszky on Tuesday held talks with the Foreign Committee chairmen of the Uruguayan senate and house of representatives. Following, Jeszenszky met representatives from the Hungarian community of Uruguay at the Kossuth statue in Montevideo. He placed a wreath on the memorial, and then delivered a speech in which he discussed the state and efforts of contemporary Hungary, the relations between Hungarians living beyond and within the borders.

Jeszenszky called on his audience to safeguard these relations, and stressed the need for cooperation between the Hungarians living abroad.

### Lacalle on Israeli Embassy Attack in Argentina

*PY1903011392 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2240 GMT 18 Mar 92*

[Text] Montevideo, 18 Mar (EFE)—Uruguayan President Luis Alberto Lacalle on 18 March said that the

attack on the Israeli Embassy on 17 March in Buenos Aires "is a horrible example of a world that should disappear, but regrettably is still with us."

The attack, for which the Islamic Jihad organization has claimed responsibility and which has so far caused the deaths of 20 persons and injured 240, has been harshly rejected by representatives of the Uruguayan Government, Congress, and the church.

The Uruguayan president stressed that "we have all, in our hearts, held a minute's silence to reflect tragically on the human condition, seeking to recognize that these incidents will continue and that death and destruction will continue to be meted out indiscriminately without knowing who will be killed or injured in the name of causes that shorten the lives of others."

Lacalle confirmed that last night he telephoned Argentine President Carlos Menem and sent a written message to the Israeli authorities "expressing our solidarity."

Lacalle stressed that "we must consider up to what point this belongs to the real world, or whether it is a horrible example of a world that should disappear, but regrettably is still with us."

The Uruguayan president will make an official visit to Israel next month. He will visit Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and other religious sites.

The Uruguayan Foreign Ministry actively participated in pushing through the UN resolution that ended the comparison between Zionism and racism.

Uruguay was the first country to recognize Israel, and an influential Jewish community of some 45,000 lives in Montevideo. Most of them own businesses and factories.

### Envoy Blames Attack on International Terrorism

*PY1803151092 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Mar 92*

[Text] Israeli Ambassador to Uruguay Avraham Toledo has said that the attack on his country's mission in Buenos Aires was the work of international terrorism. Toledo left the premises of the embassy in Argentina 15 minutes before the attack to drive to Ezeiza Airport to board a plane to Montevideo.

Shortly after arriving in our capital, and after learning of the attack, the diplomat said:

[Begin recording] [Toledo] All I know at this time is what is being reported on television and in the media. It seems to have been a car bomb. We do not know the size. The bomb damaged many buildings in front of the embassy. The building was not totally destroyed as is being said, only a section of it; three stories of that section have totally collapsed and many people probably are injured or have died. We do not know that yet and I would not like to speculate until the investigation is over.

[Unidentified reporter] The Argentine president said Argentine Nazis could be involved. What is your opinion of his remarks?

[Toledo] I do not have any information about that. I heard something on the radio regarding the carapintadas [painted faces], and you say Nazis. I did not hear what President Menem said and, of course, I will not comment on it.

[Reporter] Are you in touch with the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires to learn the latest news?

[Toledo] I left the embassy 15 minutes before the explosion to go to the airport. The ambassador's and other embassy telephones are busy now. They are probably in touch with Israel's Foreign Ministry. I have not had time, or a chance, to speak with our ambassador in Argentina. [end recording]

### Israeli Embassy Receives Bomb Threat

*PY1903003992 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Mar 92*

[Text] The Israeli Embassy received an anonymous telephone call tonight warning of a bomb near the embassy. The police have stopped all traffic along Artigas Boulevard between the intersections of 18 de Julio Avenue and Rivera Avenue.

The police are investigating but it is believed that the call was just a hoax.

## Venezuela

### President Perez Reportedly Threatens To Resign

*PA1803154492 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1452 GMT 18 Mar 92*

[Text] Caracas, 18 Mar (DPA)—The press reported on 18 March that President Carlos Andres Perez has threatened to resign immediately should the Congress reduce his presidential term and has warned that his departure would bring a military dictatorship to Venezuela.

Local newspapers reported on 18 March what Perez told the Executive Committee of the ruling Democratic Action (AD) during a special meeting held at the La Casona presidential residence: My resignation would create a power vacuum that could be filled by right-wing military men.

The head of state issued the vigorous warning on 16 March after top social democratic leaders threatened to support institutional reform to shorten his term, as requested by large opposition sectors, should he fail to immediately reform his neo-liberal economic adjustment plan.

Perez, who since the 4 February coup attempt has rejected calls to resign before his presidential term concludes in February 1994, had threatened to resign in 1990 if his party had continued to block his economic reform plan.

Press items on 18 March reported that numerous social democrats believe that the president "has been out [caido], technically speaking" since the military coup attempt that left at least 17 soldiers dead.

An AD spokesman point out that the only way to improve his image is to accelerate profound reform in keeping with his government's main guidelines, especially with regard to economic policy.

### Party Leaders Comment on Advisory Council's Work

*PA1803194192 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1550 GMT 18 Mar 92*

[Text] The Advisory Council will conclude its work on 18 March after its members present to Congress and to the parliamentary factions the recommendations they made to President Carlos Andres Perez.

As a step prior to the meeting with the Advisory Council, 88 Democratic Action [AD] parliamentarians met with President Perez on the night of 17 March to agree on the party's position on various subjects to be debated by Congress. One of the subjects discussed was the possible advancement of the date for presidential elections. AD Leaders Carlos Canache Mata and Henry Ramos commented on the meeting:

[Begin recording] [Canache] Yes, the subject was mentioned within the framework of the general presentations made by several parliamentarians. We all agreed that this proposal is not feasible.

[Unidentified reporter] What about nonconsecutive reelection [no reeleccion]?

[Canache] We did not discuss that topic. But I believe the general opinion, at least at the party leadership level, is that the nonconsecutive reelection concept should be included in the next constitutional amendments. The acquired right of Venezuelans who have been presidents of the Republic in the past and wish to run for president in the near future will be respected. If an amendment on nonconsecutive reelection is approved, it will be implemented beginning with the president who is elected next.

[Ramos] We reviewed various subjects related to our national reality, constitutional amendments, the various proposals made during the congressional sessions at the Chamber of Deputies and Senate. I am very much satisfied because this has been the most productive meeting we have had with our government during the current constitutional period. [end recording]

### Police 'Attack' Antigovernment Demonstrators

*PA1903151792 Paris AFP in Spanish 1428 GMT 19 Mar 92*

[Text] Caracas, 19 Mar (AFP)—Using water jets and tear gas, police attacked groups that were trying to start an antigovernment march in eastern Caracas on the morning of 19 March. According to local reports, they arrested over 12 activists.

The march, an attempt to defy the government's ban on demonstrations, was called by student and people's organizations that demand the resignation of Carlos Andres Perez and the release of the young military officers who tried to oust Perez on 4 February.

The demonstrators protected themselves from the police attack and tried to regroup in Petare, a densely populated business district. The police have taken up positions in strategic sites in eastern Caracas, where the public schools and many stores have closed, fearing disturbances.

### Perez Acquits 65 Persons Accused in Foiled Coup

*PA1903125692 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Mar 92*

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] President Carlos Andres Perez today ordered the acquittal of 65 civilian and military personnel after it was verified that they had simply obeyed orders when they acted or that they had no close link to the attempted coup. In this manner, the number of military officers directly involved in the 4 February incident is reduced to less than 80. We have here comments by Defense Minister Fernando Ochoa Antich:

[Begin Ochoa recording] There will be subsequently be another group of military officers who will be acquitted, as it has been clearly demonstrated that they did not have any close links to the 4 February subversive action. They were just following military orders during the incident, but in no way did they have anything to do with the conspiracy itself. The group involved appears to be reduced to a small sector of the Armed Forces that will not exceed 80 military officers. [end recording]

The Defense Minister also denied that Air Force Commander General Eutimio Fuguet is currently in Colombia on an intelligence mission, claiming that the general traveled to Colombia in response to an invitation from his colleagues from the Colombian Air Force.